THE TIMES

No 62,944 SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1987 25p

Tories sound alarm over business rate

Ridley unfolds poll tax Bill amid backlash fear

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

The Government yesterday presented its historic proposals to abolish the rating system by launching a pre-emptive strike against the alternatives favoured by Conservative rebels and the opposition parties.

But at the same time, as the detailed impact of the introduction of the new national business rate was outlined, it became clear that ministers face a possible backlash from companies and Conservative MPs in the South of England.

For the south is to suffer heavily at the expense of the north, with huge rises forecast for some London boroughs.

Conservatives were voicing alarm last night at the effects on some local businesses in predominantly Tory areas.

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, faced a barrage of criticism from Labour, the unions, pressure groups, some local authority associations and some Conservative MPs as he unveiled his plans to introduce the community charge across England and Wales in April 1990.

Poll tax tables..................4
Leading article..................9

It will be phased in alongside the rates for four years only in the 12 inner London boroughs, and Waltham Forest. There was a welcome from the Confederation of British Industry and other business interests.

The 131-clause Bill, the most controversial and vulnerable in the Government's present programme, will have a Commons second reading before Christmas, but it faces a difficult passage in its detailed committee stage, and when it reaches the Lords.

Mr Ridley, who denied the long-awaited proposals would be a vote loser, said his plans would put local power where it belonged, in the hands of the individual. Almost every voter in local elections would have a direct financial stake in the decisions of their councils.

But Dr John Cunningham, Labour's chief environment spokesman, said they were the "most regressive and unfair" proposals seen from any government, with large new burdens placed on those least able to pay.

With Conservative opponents led by Sir George Young, the former environment minister, and the Labour Party likely to mobilize around a key amendment, which would replace the proposed flat rate charge with a banded charge based on people's ability to pay, Mr Ridley used his press conference launch to lambast the plan.

He said there was little difference between the banded charge and a local income tax system, which is to be proposed by the Labour Party in a combined system with capital value rating.

If anything the banded system was worse because it would create a considerable poverty trap between each band, with people having to pay many hundreds of pounds more in tax if their income increased by just a few pounds.

It would exclude many peoples. Only about 21 million would pay the local income tax or banded community charge, while 35 million would pay the community charge.

Mr Ridley added that wildly differing tax rates between different areas would exacerbate the problem of people moving from one area to another to avoid high taxation and worsen the local "brain drain."

A local income tax in Camden, north London, would be 25.6p in the pound while in Rochester, Kent, it would be 3p, Mr Ridley said.

Sir George gave a foretaste of the battle ahead when he issued a warning last night that one of the few ways Labour could win the next election was if the Government pressed on with the flat rate charge.

But in publications yesterday the Government made clear that big business rate falls in the north and Midlands, where businesses will benefit to the tune of £700 million every year, will be paid for by increases in London and the south.

In a move to soften the worst effects the Government has promised that "substantial" increases, which it has yet to quantify, can be phased in over five years.

But as a result of the change rates will fall in the high rates areas, by about 32 per cent in Newcastle upon Tyne, 37 per cent in Manchester and 31 per cent in Liverpool.

If the new rate were set at the average 1986-87 figure more than 50 per cent of businesses would have suffered, the Government admitted, and many parts of London would face big increases, including a staggering 91 per cent for Kensington, 61 per cent for Wandsworth and 38 per cent for Westminster.

Mortgage rate cut by Midland

By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The Midland Bank yesterday became the first of the leading lenders to cut its mortgage rate below 10 per cent. The prospect is for a general fall into single figures for the first time since November 1978.

The reduction followed Thursday's half-point cut in bank base rates to 8½ per cent. The cut, from 10½ to 9¾ per cent, takes effect from January 1. This represents the lowest rate since the Midland first offered mortgages in October 1981, and will produce a cut in monthly repayments of £15.60 gross and £10.50 net of tax on a £30,000 mortgage.

The financial markets continued to trade nervously. The FT-SE 100 index closed 5.6 points down at 1,582.8, and in afternoon trading on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was 27.52 points down at 1,749.01.

The dollar showed signs of revival, pushing sterling below $1.80 on rumours, officially denied, that the Group of Seven nations' finance ministers and central bankers would meet this weekend.

Dollar rises, page 23
Comment, page 25

IN PART ②

Poor PEPs

Financial advisers say personal equity plans are fine in theory but disappointing in practice **Family Money, 28-34**

Portfolio —Gold—

£20,000 to be won

- There is £20,000 to be won today in The Times Portfolio Gold competition; £8,000 in the weekly competition and a further £12,000 in the daily competition — three times the usual amount because there have been no winners for the past two days.
- Portfolio lists, pages 27 and 33.

INDEX

Home News....................2-5
Overseas....................6,7
Business....................23-27
Sport....................37-42
Arts....................18
Births, marriages, deaths....................35
Chess....................2
Christmas gift guide....................16
Court....................10
Crosswords....................19,22
Entertainments....................35-37
Family Finance....................28-34
Law Report....................34
Legal & financial services....................37
Leading articles....................9
Letters....................9
Obituary....................10
Parliament....................4
Religion....................10
Saleroom....................3
Science....................10
Services....................35
TV & Radio....................21
Weather....................22

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Hole-in-the-heart baby goes home

David Barber, aged eight weeks, gets a cuddle from his mother, Diane Walker, aged 28, yesterday in Birmingham Children's Hospital. They were preparing to go home to Newcastle under Lyme, Staffordshire, today, only 10 days after David received a hole-in-the-heart operation after it had been cancelled five times because of a shortage of nurses. Mrs Thatcher had faced questions about the case in the Commons.

BBC says radio series does not breach security

By Richard Evans, Frances Gibb, Sheila Gunn and Michael Evans

The BBC officially asked Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney-General, last night to lift his ban preventing the broadcast of a radio series on the security services after revealing it had made sure there was no breach of national security.

Mr John Birt, deputy director-general, told Sir Patrick in a letter that the BBC had deliberately taken advice about *My Country Right or Wrong* from the secretary of the D notice committee, the voluntary security vetting body, who raised no objections and agreed to be interviewed for the series.

However, Admiral William Higgins, secretary of the D notice committee, broke the normal rule of confidentiality and gave a different version of events. He said he had been refused a transcript of the programme, and was given only two of the names of former intelligence officers interviewed and a general outline of the series.

The BBC request, which was made known to Downing Street, came at the end of a day of high drama, which culminated in a local BBC radio station being ordered not to interview an actor starring in a musical comedy about spies because it would involve naming Burgess, Philby and Maclean, three former members of the intelligence community.

The Government insisted that the injunction was necessary because the BBC had refused to show the Treasury solicitor a transcript of the Radio 4 series which features interviews with past and present members of the security services.

But the BBC said handing over the scripts prior to transmission would have been tantamount to condoning state censorship and would have provoked uproar among journalists, broadcasters and publishers.

In his letter to the Attorney-General, Mr Birt said the BBC had been concerned throughout not to breach national security. "Though we were confident there was no risk of this, we nonetheless took advice from the secretary of the D notice committee. We gave him an account of the substance of each contribution by past and present officers in the first programme.

"He raised no objections and indeed agreed to be interviewed for the series. We understand he sought and was granted permission for this by Sir Clive Whitmore, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Defence and chairman of the D notice committee."

Sir Patrick faced accusations in the Commons of censorship and bungling as he sought to defend the Government's handling of the issue. He insisted that present or former members of the security forces must not breach the confidentiality rule.

Labour MPs said it was beyond comprehension that

Continued on page 22, col 1

SAS goes for B-Cal showdown

By Harvey Elliott
Air Correspondent

The Scandinavian airline SAS last night challenged the Government to act by putting forward a new formal offer for a stake in British Caledonian.

After more than four hours of talks at the Civil Aviation Authority, SAS negotiators had still not received the assurances they needed that their bid for a 40 per cent stake would get official blessing.

Despite offering to reduce their voting rights from 29.5 per cent to 24 per cent in the new merged airline they were still unable to convince the CAA that B-Cal would remain "in British control", as is required by the Civil Aviation Act.

The SAS move is bound to be a great embarrassment to the Government which had hoped that by putting pressure on SAS the airline would simply go home without B-Cal shareholders being forced to make a decision.

During the long discussions at the CAA, SAS had tried to seek an assurance that its proposals would not be referred to the Secretary of State for Transport. But last night the CAA said that it could not give such a pledge.

Ministers had been worried that an SAS involvement in B-Cal would lead to a dispute with America over air services between the two countries.

One of the main conditions of the Air Services Agreement Britain has with the US is for airlines to be under the "substantial and effective control" of nationals.

But Mr John Barcas, the US civil air attaché at the American Embassy in London, said: "The US Government is not the source of any suggestion that the proposed merger with B-Cal is a problem."

Conciliatory Thatcher calls for binding EEC reforms

From Richard Owen, Copenhagen

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday issued an uncompromising call at the EEC summit meeting for urgent, detailed and binding European farm reforms to stave off EEC bankruptcy. She did so in a "spirit of negotiation" which differed from the at times strident tone which marked her point blank refusal to compromise at the last EEC summit in Brussels in June.

Both President Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany described Mrs Thatcher's approach in Copenhagen as conciliatory and constructive. But a spokesman for Mrs Thatcher said Britain was still not optimistic because opposition to farm cuts by France and West Germany was still strong and, if anything, increasing.

Mrs Thatcher, dominating the opening day of the two-day summit, supported a suggestion by Mr Poul Schlüter, the Danish Prime Minister, who is chairing the meeting, that the EEC should concentrate on bringing down farm output in cereals and oil seeds, the most difficult areas, as "beacons of reform". EEC agriculture ministers would then work out farm production limits or "stabilizers" in lesser areas, such as sheep meat, sugar, wine and tobacco.

Copenhagen — Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, yesterday assured Mrs Thatcher before the start of the EEC summit that the new extradition arrangements between Britain and the Irish Republic would be reviewed if they proved "unsatisfactory".

Last night, Danish officials were working on a compromise on cereals setting out maximum permissible production levels, together with penalties for surplus production. The possible compromise also involves a scheme favoured by Bonn for taking cereal land out of production, a scheme known as "setaside".

Mrs Thatcher's softer tone still leaves the EEC a long way from agreement. If anything it increases the pressure on West Germany and France, both of which still oppose detailed commodity by commodity stabilizers with penalties and price cuts for farmers who over-produce. This conflict could still lead to deadlock at the summit today.

Britain and West Germany moved closer together yesterday after breakfast talks between Mrs Thatcher and Herr Kohl before the summit convened. But British officials pointed out that even if Anglo-German differences were re-

Continued on page 22, col 7

Injunction thwarts Maxwell

The takeover of Watford Football Club by Mr Robert Maxwell, the publishing millionaire, was thwarted last night when the Football League won a High Court injunction banning the planned move until next Tuesday.

The injunction, granted after a 40-minute emergency hearing, restrained Mr Maxwell, or one of his companies, from buying 92 per cent of Watford's shares from Elton John, the club's chairman. Mr John Holloran, the chairman of Mr Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation, was to have become the new Watford chairman.

The League claimed it was worried about Mr Maxwell's spreading interest in a number of clubs, in contravention to its regulations.

Report, page 42

'Unfair' plans under attack from all sides

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The three opposition parties condemned the Government's proposals for the poll tax as unfair and undemocratic and forecast that they would be massively unpopular in the country.

On the Government backbenches there was unhappiness at the impact of the business rate which will mean increases for companies in many Conservative held constituencies in southern England compared with increases in northern Labour held strongholds.

One backbencher described the plan as "a subsidy by businesses in the south to businesses in the north".

Conservative opponents of the plan want to rally critics around a banded or graduated community charge in the hope of attracting opposition support for their alternative and persuading the Government to alter its measures. They fear that the flat rate poll tax could prove an election bonus for Labour, particularly as it will be introduced in 1990 in the run up to the next general election.

The Labour Party is expected to adopt a rating system based on a property tax with a local income tax when it unveils its policy for local

Continued on page 22, col 7

Legal Aid Bill gives role to advice bureaux

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A new board to run the £400 million a year legal aid scheme in England and Wales is proposed in a Bill published yesterday.

The Legal Aid Bill, which also proposes stricter controls over payments for legal aid work, represents the biggest overhaul of the scheme since it was created nearly 30 years ago. The scheme is now run by the Law Society.

A key feature of the Bill gives the board power to "contract-out" to non-lawyers some areas of advice work which have always been done by solicitors.

It is expected that much of the advice, in areas such as housing and welfare benefits, will be done by law centres and citizens' advice bureaux.

The board will have between 11 and 17 members, appointed by the Lord Chancellor. He will also appoint the chairman.

There are new powers for the Bar to deal with legal aid complaints against barristers.

Yesterday the National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux said the bureaux would not go along with Government proposals unless extra money was provided.

Legal hitch, page 2

First Lady's Christmas treat

Raisa the VIP visitor

By Sarah Thompson and Sheila Gunn

Mrs Raisa Gorbachov, the wife of the Soviet leader, is to witness one of England's most enduring — and endearing — Christmas traditions, while her husband is engaged in two hours of talks with Mrs Thatcher at RAF Brize Norton in Oxfordshire.

Escorted by Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, Mrs Gorbachov will pay a 45-minute visit to the Edith Moorhouse* Primary School in the village of Carterton nearby, where she will see the infants' Christmas nativity play.

"It's a real, traditional one, with shepherds, kings and angels," said Mr Brian McCutcheon, the school's headteacher, who was only told of the planned visit on Wednesday.

He added: "The Christmas nativity play is one of those marvellous things that makes it worthwhile being a teacher - and I think she will enjoy it. It will certainly be quite new to her."

After the nativity play — performed by children aged five to seven — Mrs Gorbachov will see older pupils at their work.

The children, half of whose parents work at the RAF base, are working on a Christmas card for her, while the school cook, Ann Jones, is to bake a special batch of hot mince-pies.

Mr McCutcheon said: "We are all very delighted and honoured to be chosen for the visit. We haven't had time to lay on anything special — we just thought we'd show her what goes on in a typical English village school."

After the school visit, Mrs Gorbachov will return to Brize Norton and rejoin her husband and Mrs Thatcher for lunch in the officers' mess.

Mr Leon Brittan, the former Home Secretary, said the meeting between Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gorbachov was the clearest possible sign of Britain's transformation from being an object of pity to a force to be reckoned with on the world stage.

First Lady's softer touch

Nancy the moderator

From Michael Binyon, Washington

Mr Michael Deaver, the former White House aide, claims in a new autobiography that he teamed up with Mrs Nancy Reagan to get the President to dismiss conservatives in his Administration and soften his line on the Soviet Union. Such an extraordinary revelation could land the First Lady in as much controversy as that surrounding Mrs Raisa Gorbachov.

Mr Deaver, now on trial for perjury over his lobbying activities, says in a book to be published next year that Mrs Reagan is not as ideological as her husband. Since his inauguration in 1981, she had tried to get him to steer a more pragmatic, non-controversial course that would appeal to a broader constituency than those supporters on the right.

Mr Deaver says: "She lobbied the President to soften his line on the Soviet Union, to reduce military spending and not push Star Wars at the expense of the poor and dispossessed." He adds: "Nancy wins most of the time … not by wearing him (the President) down but by usually being on the right side of an issue." Extracts from the book were published yesterday in *The Washington Times*, a right-wing paper that has frequently accused Mr Reagan of retreating from his conservative principles. Mr Deaver, a friend of the Reagans for more than 20 years, says he and Mrs Reagan worked to get rid of Mr Richard Allen, a former National Security Adviser, who was seen as too "pro-Taiwan".

Mr Deaver's book is likely to rekindle resentment against Mrs Reagan on the right. Questions may also be asked about his motives and credibility. Six weeks after presenting evidence, the prosecution has now rested its case that Mr Deaver lied under oath about his lobbying activities after leaving the White House. In his defence, his lawyers are expected to describe him as a former alcoholic, whose memory was clouded by heavy drinking when he testified.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Students killed in M4 crash

Two American students were killed and 12 injured in a crash between two cars and a minibus which blocked one carriageway of the M4 in Wiltshire last night.

The dead man and a woman and many of the injured were flung out of the minibus as it overturned after being involved in a collision with a Ford Sierra and another car on the westbound carriageway three miles west of the Membury services.

The dead woman's husband was among the injured taken to Princess Margaret's Hospital, Swindon. Some were seriously injured. The party had been travelling back to the West Country after visiting a London university.

Wiltshire police said: "The transit van disintegrated in the crash. Passengers spilled all over the motorway."

Princess's pep talk

The Princess of Wales joined an informal drug therapy session when she opened a detoxification unit at Corsham, Portsmouth, yesterday.

The Princess spent a long time talking to 10 residents at the £100,000 unit, the first of its kind in Britain, where drug abusers spend up to eight weeks.

One resident, Nigel, aged 18, said he had told the Princess "it was a bit rough" when he first joined the unit, but that he had got used to it.

She had replied: "Stay clean and give it a really good try and keep at it".

TV strike spreads

The TV-am dispute threatened to spread last night after journalists voted to go into dispute with the company.

The technicians' union, ACTT, has asked members of the National Union of Journalists not to cross its picket line at TV-am's north London headquarters from midnight today. Journalists voted to hold a secret ballot next week on whether to support the technicians but had to invoke disputes procedure to do so.

The dispute with the ACTT is over manning on a Christmas charity roadshow.

Catalogues kill child

Ryan Wallace, aged two, was crushed to death by 480 lbs of mail order catalogues that fell on him "like dominoes" in his mother's bedroom, an inquest at Southwark was told yesterday.

The coroner, Sir Montague Levine, recorded a verdict of accidental death on the child, of Ipswich House, St Norbert Road, Brockley, who died from asphyxia on October 25. His mother, Mrs Julie Wallace, aged 25, said she worked at home putting catalogues into envelopes. Sixty boxes of them were stored in the bedroom and the child had got into a gap between the boxes. She added that she was no longer doing the work. "I don't want to see those boxes again. I will always feel guilty", she said.

Bahamas inquiry

Two detectives returned to Britain yesterday after 12 days of inquiries in the Bahamas over the swimming pool death of Mrs Diana Carson, wife of a British diplomat.

Det Chief Supt Alan Wheeler, head of Hampshire CID, and Det Chief Insp Keith Akerman visited the former Nassau home of Mrs Carson and her husband, Captain Christopher Carson, a Royal Navy attache.

The body of Mrs Carson, aged 48, was found on October 9. Captain Carson was recalled after being declared "unacceptable".

Idle three in sit-in

Three workers on a Manpower Services Commission community programme were suspended after staging a sit-in at offices in Carmarthen, Dyfed, yesterday.

They claimed they were being paid to "sit on our backsides" because there was not enough work for them.

The three were paid £53 for a 25-hour week to hand out special marker pens to householders to identify goods in an anti-theft drive. The scheme is one of 12,000 operated under the Government's Community Programme which involves 250,000 people.

Miners' flexible vote

More than threequarters of Leicestershire members of the National Union of Mineworkers have called on their leaders to start talks with British Coal over the introduction of flexible working. Some 81 per cent of the 1,050 NUM men voted to back their area officials in negotiations over the new £400 million Asfordby colliery.

Thearea has only two months' work for 300 miners at the county's other pit. New development work at Asfordby is likely to go the Union of Democratic Mineworkers if there is no agreement with the NUM.

Cardinal Hume praises archbishop's leadership

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Cardinal Basil Hume, leader of the Roman Catholic Church in England, made an unprecedented intervention yesterday in defence of the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

It came as the Church of England continued to hum with rumour and recrimination over the personal attack on the archbishop in this year's anonymous *Crockford's* preface.

Disregarding the mutual convention that one church should not comment on another's affairs, Cardinal Hume wrote in a letter to *The Times* yesterday that the "notorious" preface to *Crockford's* directory had appeared to ignore Dr Runcie's "brave and imaginative" leadership of the Church of England.

He praised particularly Dr Runcie's leadership in facing the problems of inner city decline, and advancing the "vital cause" of Christian unity. He also alluded to their long-standing personal friendship, saying Dr Runcie had done much to earn his personal gratitude.

The preface, which was published on Thursday, attacked Dr Runcie's leadership of the church as weak and indecisive, saying he preferred to go with the will of the majority rather than acting in accordance with firm principles.

Crockford's, the main directory of Anglican clergy in Britain, has been published since 1985 by the Church Commissioners and the Central Board of Finance of the General Synod of the Church of England, and it traditionally carries a comprehensive survey of the state of the church by an unnamed senior churchman.

Some churchmen were pressing for an early official disclosure of the name of the preface writer, perhaps at a press conference. It was very clear by yesterday afternoon that a number of senior clergy were becoming increasingly alarmed by the atmosphere of suspicion and paranoia in the church that the anonymity of the preface-writer had generated.

In Church House, Westminster, where the synod has its headquarters, the first moves were being made to try to kill off the customary practice of publishing such a preface in future years. It is understood strong criticism of this year's preface and of the custom itself has already begun to surface in church committees. The matter is expected to be raised at the December meeting of the General Synod's policy subcommittee, and at the synod's standing committee.

Letters, page 9

Ferry firm opens talks on cutting 500 jobs

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

P & O European Ferries is seeking to cut the number of seamen working on cross-Channel ferries from Dover by about one-sixth.

The company was holding talks with the National Union of Seamen and the National Union of Marine, Aviation, Shipping and Transport Officers, last night.

Until October P & O European Ferries was known as Townsend Thoresen Car Ferries. It says the reductions are essential to make the ferries competitive.

The company owned the Herald of Free Enterprise, which capsized at Zeebrugge in March with the loss of about 190 lives.

It said last night that "safety standards are regarded as absolute and there is no threat to them whatever".

There are 2,900 seafarers, of whom 700 are officers, engaged on the company's ferry services from Dover to Calais, Zeebrugge and Boulogne.

Although no figure has been formally mentioned, it is thought that the company is seeking a reduction of up to 500 seamen and officers.

P & O said it was not seeking to reduce the size of crews on ferries, but the number of crews per vessel.

There were at least 3.6 crews per ship, which meant that in some cases crew members worked only 80 days a year for a full year's pay, he said.

The company wanted to achieve a ratio of about 2.5 crews per ship, which would allow 218 days a year off duty.

Over the past five years income had not kept pace with costs. The average price obtained from passengers had been static, and the average amount from freight vehicles had declined by 2 per cent.

In the same period seafarers' wages had gone up by 22-24 per cent.

The company was also concerned about the possibility that the European Community would withdraw duty-free facilities, which formed an important component in its revenue, and by the prospect of competition from the Channel tunnel.

Economies had been made by "squeezing" suppliers and by reducing the shore establishment.

But "the inescapable fact is that it costs too much to man our vessels. When compared with the rest of the industry, our wage bill is just too high".

A year ago when Sealink British Ferries, P & O's main rivals on the Channel crossing, sought substantial reductions in seafarers, it led to a strike throughout their fleet.

P & O and Sealink are planning to seek the permission of the Office of Fair Trading to discuss of rationalizing cross-Channel services.

Trains pursue business trade

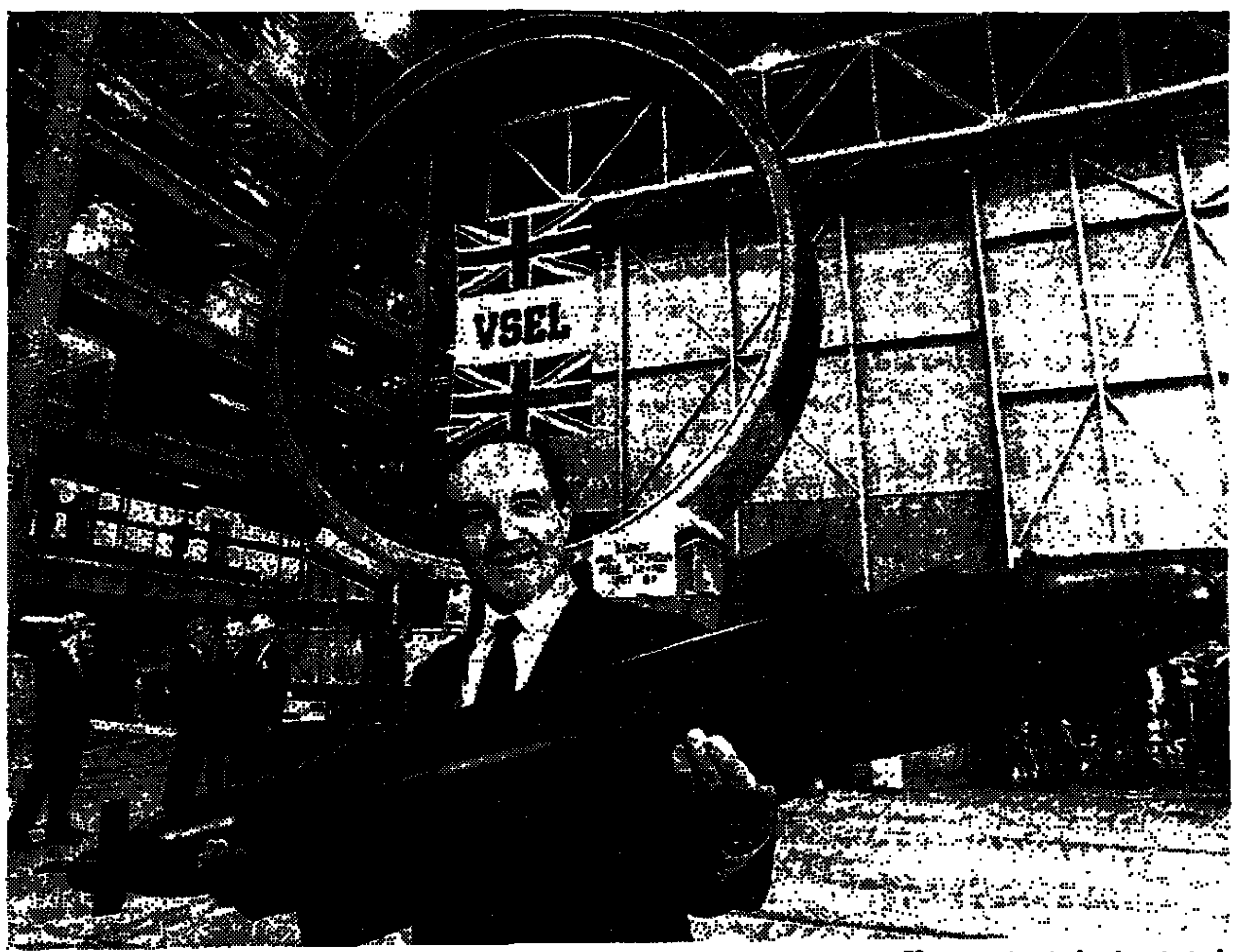
British Rail is extending its campaign to attract business travellers (Rodney Cowton writes).

After the success of Pullman services it is to introduce a "silver standard", equivalent to the business class on airlines, for businessmen who travel on a full price standard ticket.

Mr Rob Mason, Inter-City national marketing manager, said British Rail is to set aside special standard class coaches on a trial basis which will not be open to passengers travelling on reduced price tickets.

Initially the new weekday service is to be offered early next year on four peak time trains each way on the Liverpool/London route.

Model start for £425m Trident



Mr George Younger holding a scale model of a Trident submarine during a visit to Vickers' yard at Barrow-in-Furness yesterday to lay the keel of Britain's second Trident missile submarine, the £425 million HMS Victorious. A section of its hull is behind him.

The Secretary of State for Defence said the new submarine would help to provide Britain with an effective and credible strategic deterrent well into the next century.

"We expect next week President Reagan and Mr Gorbachov will sign an historic arms deal which we all welcome. They will discuss proposals for maintaining peace at a lower level of arms.

"But let us be quite clear that these discussions do not affect the need for this Trident submarine fleet. Even if there were 50 per cent cuts in the strategic weapons of the superpowers, it would leave Russia with about 6,000 strategic nuclear weapons.

"This is more than enough to pose a continuing and massive threat to Britain's security. Against such a threat, Trident will already be the minimum necessary to deter aggression."

(Photograph: Graham Wood.)

Rush job to publish a Bill

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs Correspondent

The Legal Aid Bill narrowly avoided missing its publication day yesterday after officials mislaid the computer disk.

The Bill, which had its first reading on Thursday, was scheduled to be published yesterday morning accompanied by a full government briefing.

However, early in the day officials in the Lord Chancellor's Department reported problems with the printing of the Bill at the Stationery Office. They said it was impossible to say whether the Bill would even be published yesterday.

It turned out that the Bill had to be published at some point before midnight or its scheduled second reading, which has to come a full two weekends after publication, would have been delayed.

No one in the department was saying exactly what the problem was but it turned out that the Bill had fallen victim to new technology.

It was stored on computer disk but, when officials went to send it for printing on Thursday night, it could not be located.

By the time they did so, the poll tax Bill had beaten them to the printing presses and the Legal Aid Bill had to wait its turn.

The Bill was rushed out just before teatime but still too late for any government briefing to be organized.

"You are free to buy one from the Stationery Office or alternatively you can have a copy free of charge at the press conference on Monday morning", an official said.

Postal settlement

Union hails 'historic' deal

By John Spicer, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of Britain's postal workers say a 1½-hour cut in the working week from next September and November is part of a deal that is "momentous, wide-ranging and historic". The executive of the Union of Communication Workers unanimously endorsed it yesterday and Mr Alan Tuffin, the general secretary, said they thoroughly recommended it to postmen and sorters.

The union had demanded a three-hour cut, rejecting the Post Office offer of one hour tied to a productivity deal.

After yesterday's meeting, Mr Tuffin said a productivity and bonus scheme to be introduced in April would help to pay for the reduced hours. The Post Office annual growth of between 4 and 5 per cent would also contribute and he was confident there would be no increase in the price of stamps.

Mr Tuffin emerged from the executive meeting to describe the deal, worked out over three weeks, as "a magnificent agreement". His executive was highly pleased with it and it was the first cut in hours for postmen and sorters for 22 years.

Mr Tuffin said the deal meant that for the first time postmen would be able to work a five-day week, although the postal service would remain over six days.

Mr Tuffin said he expected to negotiate an improvement in counter staff conditions next year. They already worked a 40-hour week.

The agreement is expected to cost about £75 million, according to the Post Office. It falls into two parts: a shorter working week from the September 1, 1988, for workers in the parcels section and from November 1 for the letters sections.

Mr Tuffin said: "Through this agreement, Post Office workers have become the largest group of public sector workers to achieve a major reduction in hours since Mrs Thatcher came to power."

The very high earners, particularly "the overtime barons" in London, will find themselves limited in future. The agreement includes "buy outs" from April next year for those earning productivity weekly bonuses of more than £20. They will get lump sum payments which could average more than £1,000.

A feature of the agreement on productivity has been to give most to the lowest paid members. More than 43,000 people — one third of the UCW's postmen and sorters and 22,000 of whom received no bonus under the old arrangements — will get a new pay supplement of £7.50 a week. An additional 38,000 will maintain their existing bonuses of between £7.50 and £20 a week while the remaining 40,000 will receive lump sum payments.

The union says there will also be the opportunity for all 165,000 Post Office members to benefit from the new productivity payments.

Last night, the Post Office said it welcomed the agreement

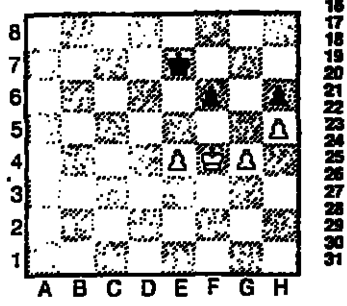
Contestants equal after Karpov slip

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent, Seville

The world champion, Gary Kasparov, and the challenger, Anatoly Karpov, were level at 9½ points as the twentieth game in the Seville World Championship began yesterday.

The nineteenth game ended in a draw after 62 moves.

Although Karpov (white) had been in a stronger position at the adjournment (move 40), he fell into a trap on move 48.



The game in full:

White	Black	White	Black
1 Nf3	d5	32 Ra5	Rd6
2 d4	Nf6	33 R1a2	Rc6
3 c4	e6	34 h4	Rd6
4 Nc3	Be7	35 Kf4	Rb6
5 Bg5	0-0	36 R2a3	Rc6
6 e3	h6	37 Re5+	Kf6
7 Bh4	b6	38 Rf5+	Ke6
8 Be2	Bb7	39 Rfa5	Rb6
9 Bxf6	Bxf6	40 Re5+	Kf6
10 cxd5	exd5	41 Rea5	Ke6
11 0-0	Nd7	42 Ra1	Rc6
12 b4	c5	43 Re5+	Kf6
13 bxc5	bxc5	44 Rf5+	Ke6
14 Qb3	cxd4	45 Re5+	Kf6
15 Nxd4	Bxd4	46 Rea5	Ke6
16 exd4	Nb6	47 R1a2	Rb6
17 a4	Rb8	48 g4	f6
18 a5	Nc4	49 h5	Rc6
19 Bxc4	dxc4	50 Rb2	Rcxa6
20 Qxc4	Qd6	51 Rb6+	Rxb6
21 Qc5	Qxc5	52 Rxa7	Rb1
22 dxc5	Rbc8	53 Rxg7	Rf1+
23 a6	Ba8	54 Ke3	Re1+
24 Nb5	Rxc5	55 Kf3	Rf1+
25 Nxa7	Be4	56 Ke2	Rf4
26 f3	Ra8	57 Ke3	Ke5
27 fxe4	Rxa7	58 Re7+	Kd6
28 Ra4	Rc6	59 Rh7	Ke5
29 Rfa1	Kf8	60 Re7+	Kd6
30 Kf2	Ke7	61 Re6+	Kxe6
31 Ke3	Ke6	62 Kxf4	Ke7

Drawn

RUC fails to extradite Maze prison escaper

By John Cooney

An attempt by the Royal Ulster Constabulary to obtain extradition a Maze prison escaper to Northern Ireland failed yesterday in the Dublin District Court.

Paul Anthony Kane, aged 33, from Belfast, is wanted on charges of escaping from lawful custody and for the murder of a police officer.

Kane was remanded in custody until next Friday, when the RUC application for his extradition will be considered by a district justice.

Kane also appeared before the Dublin High Court which was held at a heavily guarded criminal court.

Kane's counsel, Mr Patrick MacEntee, is contesting the legality of his arrest by Irish police in Cavan on November 26 after a chase involving the car of Mr Gerry Adams.

Earlier that day Kane had been released after being held for 48 hours at Granard police station in Co Longford under the Offences Against The State Act.

Chief Supt Albert McDonagh told the court that the RUC request for Kane's extradition had no bearing on his decision to order Irish police officers to keep a surveillance check on Kane.

He suspected Kane was involved with the IRA and that he might lead police to other members of the illegal organization.

But Mr MacEntee said that at no time was Kane at liberty. The police had infringed his constitutional rights of free movement.

The hearing will continue at the High Court on Monday.

The adjournment for a week of the extradition request was timed to await the outcome of Mr MacEntee's challenge to the legality of Kane's arrest.

Local disputes simmer on

Postal services were at a standstill in Cardiff and Luton yesterday in spite of the national agreement to return to work (Ronald Faux writes).

Workers walked out because of management plans to bring in casual staff to deal with the backlog of mail caused by the dispute.

In Cardiff, where more than one million letters and parcels had piled up at the head sorting office, 300 workers refused to accept a Post Office decision to bring in casual workers.

Post boxes in the city remained sealed and the Post Office could not say when normal service would be resumed.

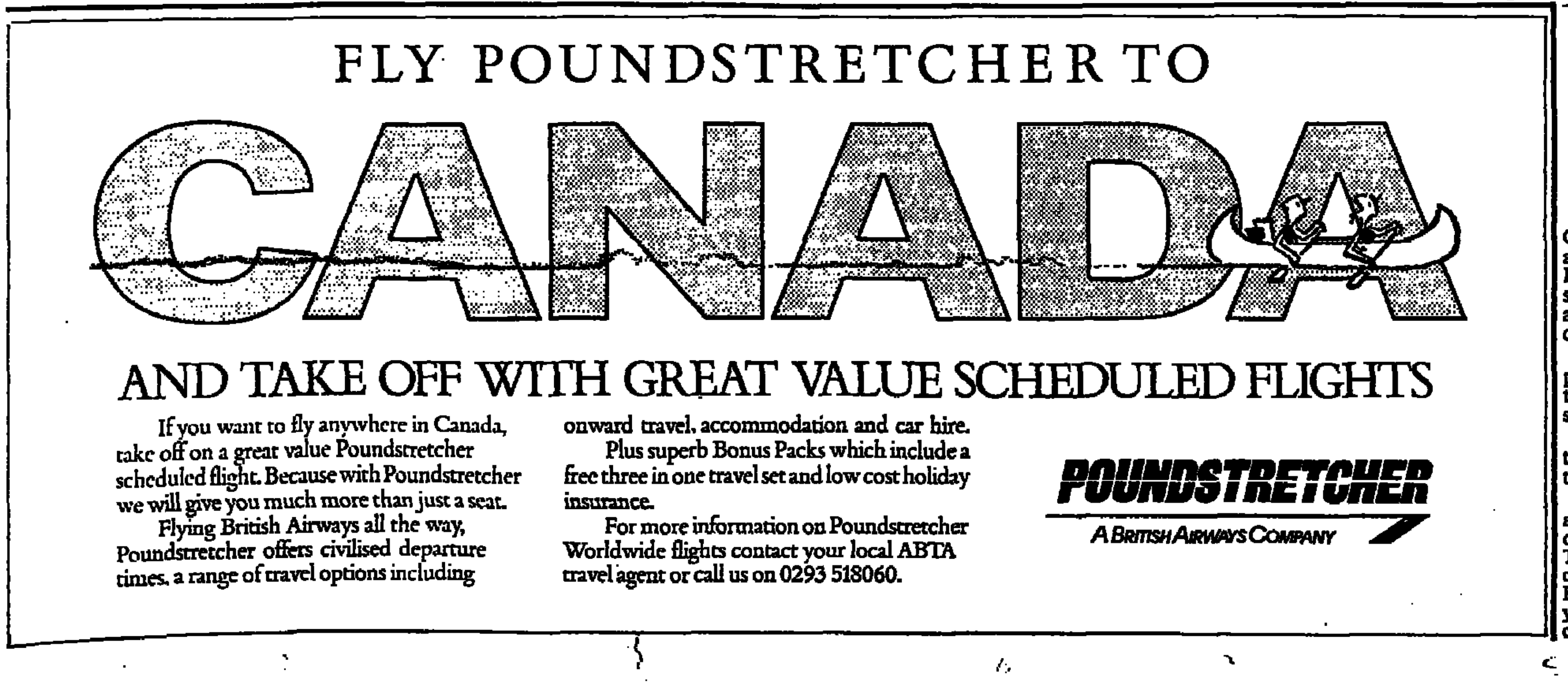
Mr Pat Taggart, head post master, said: "This is a pointless dispute. The public are being inconvenienced unnecessarily."

Luton postmen walked out because 175 casuals had been employed before work had been offered as overtime to full-time staff. They were joined by a group of postmen from Dunstable.

There were no postal deliveries in Luton and the town's letter boxes were sealed. The Post Office thought it unlikely that the dispute would be solved last night.

The local wrangles were the last throes of a dispute that had simmered since the spring, when the Union of Communication Workers' annual conference voted for industrial action if the Post Office ignored the call for a shorter working week.

The union was solidly behind threats of disruption to the Christmas post, when 100 million letters and 1.4 million parcels are handled daily.



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Peers face a shorter recess

By Sheila Gunn
Political Staff

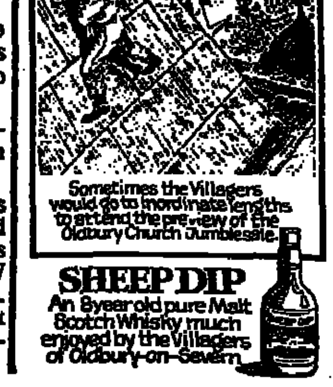
Government business managers accept that the House of Lords will have to cut short its summer recess next year to get a string of controversial Bills on to the statute book.

The latest addition, a Bill to privatize British Steel, means the Upper House will have to sit beyond the end of July.

Many of the most contentious Bills will not arrive in the Lords until next Easter.

The peers' main weapons are the ability to amend and delay legislation. So far Mrs Thatcher has suffered 107 concessions at their hands. Bills arriving in the Lords next year include those on education and the poll tax.

Buying The Times overseas: Austria Sch 29; Belgium B Frs 50; Canada $2.75; Canaries Pes 200; Cyprus 80 cents; Denmark Dkr 12.00; Finland Mkk 9.00; France F 9.00; W Germany DM 3.80; Gibraltar 70p; Greece Dr 200; Holland Gl 3.50; Irish Republic 40p; Italy L 3,000; Luxembourg Lf 45; Madeira Esc 200; Malta 35c; Morocco Dir 12.00; Norway Kr 10.00; Pakistan Rps 18; Portugal Esc 200; Singapore $5.50; Spain Pes 200; Sweden Skr 12.00; Switzerland S Frs 3.00; Tunisia Din 1.00; USA $2.00; Yugoslavia Din 3,000.



Sometimes the Villagers would go to inordinate lengths to attend the preview of the Oldbury Church Jumblesale.
SHEEP DIP
An 8 year old pure Malt Scotch Whisky much enjoyed by the Villagers of Oldbury-on-Severn

هكذا من الأصل

هكذا من الاصل

Some city housing beyond belief, says the Prince of Wales

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

The Prince of Wales is to chair a twice-postponed public debate on architecture in spite of private warnings that it will be "political dynamite," it emerged yesterday.

And he explained yesterday in a radio interview that he was crusading against bad building and the plight of Britain's inner cities because he felt he ought to try to improve the conditions in which many people live.

On Radio Four's *Today programme, the Prince hinted* he would give up his crusade if opposition became too strong or his work was unwanted.

"Clearly it would be much easier to lead a quiet life. I don't need to do all this. No *one is ordering me to* go out and do it; there is no set royal function.

"It's just that I feel strongly, for better or worse, about a lot of these things. If you go round the country in my position — I've learnt a lot, I've listened, I've looked a lot — you can't just sit there and do nothing about it.

"But if they'd rather I did nothing about it, I'll go off somewhere else."

The Prince, interviewed after visiting Easterhouse, the huge housing estate on the outskirts of Glasgow, spoke of the squalor and said the 1960s houses were "beyond belief".

Improvements, such as reducing the height of blocks of flats and providing gardens for children, could make an "immense difference".

He expressed concern about the conditions in which many people lived, saying: "I'm driven by the feeling I've had for a long time through travelling round this country and using my eyes. I personally mind about the conditions in which people live and I've often thought I wish I could do something about this.

"Slowly but surely I've been trying to find small ways in which I hope I can make a contribution."

He added: "I want to see people develop their potential, their talents; I believe everybody has talents and abilities which so often are unrealized.

"*If you're living* in areas where you have to struggle sometimes to survive, let alone anything else, I believe there is a great deal of wasted potential there.

"This is what happens to concern me. I mind about the individual."

The public meeting the Prince will chair at the Royal Institute of British Architects' headquarters in London next April, follows his attack this week on developers, planners and architects when he said it was time the so-called experts began to listen to the views of the lay public. The debate is expected to provide the ideal opportunity fully to air his views on public participation.

Duke opens a Chinese arch

The Duke of Edinburgh visited Manchester yesterday to tour a reclaimed wasteland and to open a library and a Chinese landmark.

The Duke was welcomed to Manchester by its Chinese population — the largest in Britain outside of London — to open a £350,000 Imperial archway in the city's Chinatown.

Special permission had to be obtained to erect an Imperial archway anywhere outside China.

The Duke took a pair of golden scissors from Sonia Gar-en Tang, aged eight, whose name means "abundant love", and cut a ribbon to open the arch.

Earlier, he visited Manchester University Institute of Science and Technology, where he is chancellor, to open a £4 million library.

He also toured a former inner city wasteland, now transformed into one of Europe's foremost dockside developments.

He saw the work going on to regenerate the docks at Salford Quays, which developers hope will attract £125 million of investment.

● An area of Manchester where one in four is out of work has snubbed a competition offering £20,000 in prizes for ideas to create new jobs. The competition was organized in October by the Manchester Chamber of Commerce and a local task force. The December 17 deadline has been extended.

London Underground safety

Dangerous waste 'cleared'

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

Dangerous waste materials found in a search of the London Underground network after the King's Cross fire have been cleared, London Regional Transport said yesterday.

The statement came after the leaking of an internal report which showed that an examination of many stations immediately after the fire had revealed electrical wiring which needed attention, open cans of lubricating oil and other dangerous materials and waste.

London Underground said that it had made a thorough search of stations and had identified areas that needed attention. The most critical materials had been dealt with and the rest were being cleared according to an order of priorities.

A spokesman said that London Underground had to deal with about 15 tonnes of waste every day. Planned staff reductions in cleaning and escalator maintenance staff had been suspended.

Fire safety advertisements which were to have been displayed in Underground stations this month have been cancelled because of fears that they would upset people who were involved in the King's Cross fire.

The posters, which were prepared before the fire, showed a burning door with a Christmas wreath on it and the words, "Take care this *Christmas*".

London Fire Brigade said it had been agreed in consultation with London Underground that the use of the poster in Underground stations so soon after the King's Cross fire might have been considered "insensitive".

Close look at an original print

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

The Original Print Fair, one of the most cheerful events on the art market calendar, opens today at the Royal Academy, where prices range from £66 to £66,000.

The cheapest is a Shrew Mouse by Eric Dagleish at the Garton and Cooke Gallery, while the most expensive is Picasso's *Le Repas Frugal* at Frederick Mulder's.

The fair was opened officially last night by Patrick Proctor, the artist, who will be represented by the Redfern Gallery, with a series of dreamy lithographs from his travels to Egypt and the Peoples' Republic of China.

One of the reasons for the success of the fair, which made its first appearance on the art market calendar three years ago, is the quality of the works.

This year it features hundreds of big names, from Durer to Matisse, with comic relief provided by the Glen Baxters at Nigel Greenwood.

One well-known image, "Saturday Morning Shopping", shows a man lost in a jungle, and a Gillray print entitled "Monstrous Craws", the eighteenth century equivalent of "Blowout" in print form, is at Andrew Edmunds.

Another reason for its success is the approachability of the dealers.

"Of all categories of dealers, we are the ones with the most camaraderie", one said.

"*It's in the nature of the* field. With paintings there is only one of each, and everyone tries to catch everyone else out. With prints there are more to go round!"

The Original Print Fair is at The Royal Academy, Piccadilly, from today until Tuesday.

Patrick Proctor, the artist, scrutinizing the Shrew Mouse by Eric Dagleish, after opening the Original Print Fair yesterday at the Royal Academy (Photograph: Alan Weller).

Sisters are 'trapped in arranged marriages'

By Craig Seton

The Foreign Office is attempting to trace two Birmingham sisters whose mother is trying to bring them home from North Yemen.

She says they have been forced to live there after marriages were arranged for them without their knowledge in 1980.

The sisters, British citizens, have smuggled a taped message to their mother in King's Heath, Birmingham, pleading for help.

Zana Muhsen said she and her sister, Nadia, had been forced to marry and have sexual intercourse with their Yemeni husbands against their will and bear their children.

She begged: "Mom, please help us. It is like slaving. I wish and pray we can come home safely. What on earth is going on, why so long?"

It has been claimed that their father, Mr Ana Muhsen, who is of Yemeni origin, arranged for them to marry the teenage sons of his old friends when the girls were aged 16 and 14.

Their mother, Mrs Mariam Ali, has asked the Foreign Office to trace her daughters at their remote North Yemen village and bring them home.

The Foreign Office said yesterday that help for the girls, now aged 22 and 23, hinged on whether they held dual British and Yemeni citizenship. "If they are Yemeni citizens living in the Yemen our *foreign mission* would not be in a position to offer consular protection."

Runaway day for American painting

SALEROOM

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A marathon week of auctions on both sides of the Atlantic ended yesterday with more than forty record prices for individual artists at Sotheby's New York sale of American paintings.

With hardly a moment to lay down their gavels, the auction houses start their Monaco season tomorrow.

A major collection of paintings by the American artist Georgia O'Keeffe, and once owned by her sister Anita, fetched runaway prices at Sotheby's.

A record price for the artist of £1.1 million was paid by the American collector Gerald Peters for O'Keeffe's painting of Black Hollyhock with Blue Larkspur.

The collection comprising 10 paintings, all colourful, often near-abstract close-ups of flowers and trees, raised £4.1 million, with every work selling.

Claimed by Mr Peter Rathbone of the auction house as the "most comprehensive offering of American paintings ever held by Sotheby's", the general sale did well, with a total of £16.3 million, and 85 per cent sold.

Records included that of £1.3 million (within estimate) for the painter famous for his pictures of bar scenes in the mid-West, *Edward Hopper.* This time the subject was of a lighthouse, entitled Captain Upton's House.

Another record was for an atmospheric landscape with hummingbirds and orchid, by Martin Johnson Heade, which sold for twice its estimate at £1 million. Other records were achieved by William Glackens (£375,683) who painted somewhat in the style of Renoir, and Raphael Peale, whose painting of a still-life of cake and a glass of wine sold for £270,491.

Sotheby's London's two-day print sale ended yesterday with takings at £1.5 million, but 34 per cent unsold. The two *top prices were realized* by Israhel van Meckenem, the first being £33,000 (estimate £30,000 to £40,000) for a picture portraying the Bearing of the Cross.

The second, of the Resurrection, with Christ stepping out of the tomb on to the sleeping soldier, was, at £27,500, about £24,000 above its estimate. It was bought by the dealer Fred Mulder.

There was one impressive price in the Judaica section of Phillips' fine silver sale when a pair of Queen Anne Rimmonim or Torah finials, the earliest extant English pair and inscribed in Hebrew, were bought by the two dealers J Koopmann and S J Phillips for £55,000.

The last part of Christie's modern paintings, drawings and sculptures limped somewhat to the finish, with only 51 per cent sold.

Mr Guy Jennings, of the auction house, said: "This sale is always difficult, because some buyers have got tired and gone home. On the whole we regard this as having been an extremely successful week."

Crossword finals dates fixed

By Our Crossword Editor

***The Times*/Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship next year will again have six regional finals before the national final.**

The qualifying puzzle for the 1988 championship will be published on Thursday, January 14, and the eliminator puzzle on February 18.

The regional finals will be: Glasgow, Stakis Grosvenor Hotel, March 6; Leeds, *Queens Hotel, March 13;* Birmingham, Grand Hotel, April 24; Bristol, Hawthorns Hotel, May 22; London A, June 11, and London B, June 12, Park Lane Hotel.

The national final will be at the Park Lane Hotel, London, on Sunday, September 11.

Teachers deride 4.5% offer

By Sarah Thompson
Education Reporter

Mr Kenneth Baker was accused yesterday of starting the "depressing cycle" of pay disputes in schools by offering teachers only 4.5 per cent for next year.

The charge against the Secretary of State for Education and Science was made by Mr Peter Smith, joint general secretary designate of the Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, while unveiling his union's claim for a rise of 16 per cent from next April.

This is in line with the joint claim made by the association and the two other larger teacher unions earlier this week.

Mr Smith said that the Government's offer, which adds £300 million to the pay bill, was "grossly inadequate".

He added: "What Mr Baker is doing is to initiate the depressing cycle of the erosion of teachers' pay which will lead inevitably to more disruption in schools".

The union, which represents *123,000* of the *400,000* teachers in England and Wales, is also seeking a 12.3 per cent rise in the London weighting allowance.

The three larger unions, AMMA, *the* National Union of Teachers and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, are pressing for an across-the-board claim of 16 per cent.

● Only one in 10 children with severe visual handicaps is being taught in mainstream schools in spite of the Government's policy of integrating them, according to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

The institute, in a survey of 80 per cent of local authorities, found that only 80 educationally blind (ie needing non-visual teaching aids) *children* were being educated in mainstream schools while more than 900 were still in *special* schools.

A report based on the findings of the survey recommends more training for teachers to help blind or partially sighted children.

Market crash slashes pay

By Richard Thomson, Banking Correspondent

Seven directors at County NatWest, the securities arm of National Westminster Bank, who this week accepted a 20 per cent pay cut, stand to *lose more than £20,000 a year,* because of the stock market crash.

County would not disclose yesterday exactly how much the seven earn, although several certainly receive more than £100,000 in basic salary, excluding bonuses.

The directors include Mr Jonathan Cohen, chief executive of County, and his deputy, Mr Gavin Casey.

As at other securities firms, senior County employees are believed to earn a higher average salary than colleagues in the clearing bank.

In 1985 only three directors in the whole NatWest group earned more than £105,000, including the chairman, Lord Boardman.

This year, after the formation of County, the number of directors exceeding those earnings increased to eight; the highest basic rate being £180,000.

The next highest paid director earns £165,000, with the third highest paid receiving £135,000.

County said yesterday that it was reviewing its salary and employment structure after the stock market crash. That is likely to be completed in the next few weeks, when redundancies and pay cuts across the firm could result.

County said it would not withdraw completely from any areas of business. "We are simply adjusting to the new market conditions", the spokesman said.

After the crash, page 23

Drinks before pilot crashed

A stunt pilot who crashed while attempting to loop the loop was twice over the drink-driving limit, an inquest at Witham, Essex, was told yesterday.

Mr Nigel Brendish, aged 36, a company director who performed aerial stunts in James Bond films, had been drinking whisky.

Witnesses told the inquest that Mr Brendish's dual control Cessna swooped over trees and passing cars moments before it crashed into a field at Tollesbury, near Maldon, Essex, in September.

Mr Brendish and his passenger, Mr Ronald Sullivan, aged 39, were killed instantly.

The two men, who were closely involved in a multi-million pound plan to develop Ipswich Airport in Suffolk, were on their way home from a function at Southend Airport, Essex.

They had been presented with a bottle of whisky shortly before they took off. The bottle was found three-quarters empty near the wreckage of the plane.

The coroner's officer, Police Constable Philip Jones, said that Mr Brendish was twice over the legal drink-driving *limit and Mr Sullivan had also* been drinking.

Mrs Margaret Crawford, who flew over the Cessna in a light plane, said the plane was carrying out "appalling acrobatics" at 200 feet moments before it crashed. It vanished after the pilot tried to perform a loop the loop over the village.

Dr Charles Clark directed the jury to return a verdict of accidental death.

JPs and publicans urged to join drive on alcohol abuse

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Magistrates and public house landlords were urged last night to take stronger action against under-age drinking and those convicted of violence in an attempt to halt drunken brawls.

Mr John Wakeham, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the House, urged justices of the peace to help responsible landlords by using powers to ban people convicted of violence in public houses from licensed premises for up to two years.

Mr Wakeham, chairman of the recently-established ministerial group on alcohol misuse, said landlords should be stricter in checking the age of teenagers. A tough approach by magistrates could help clamp down on drunken violence and teenage drinking.

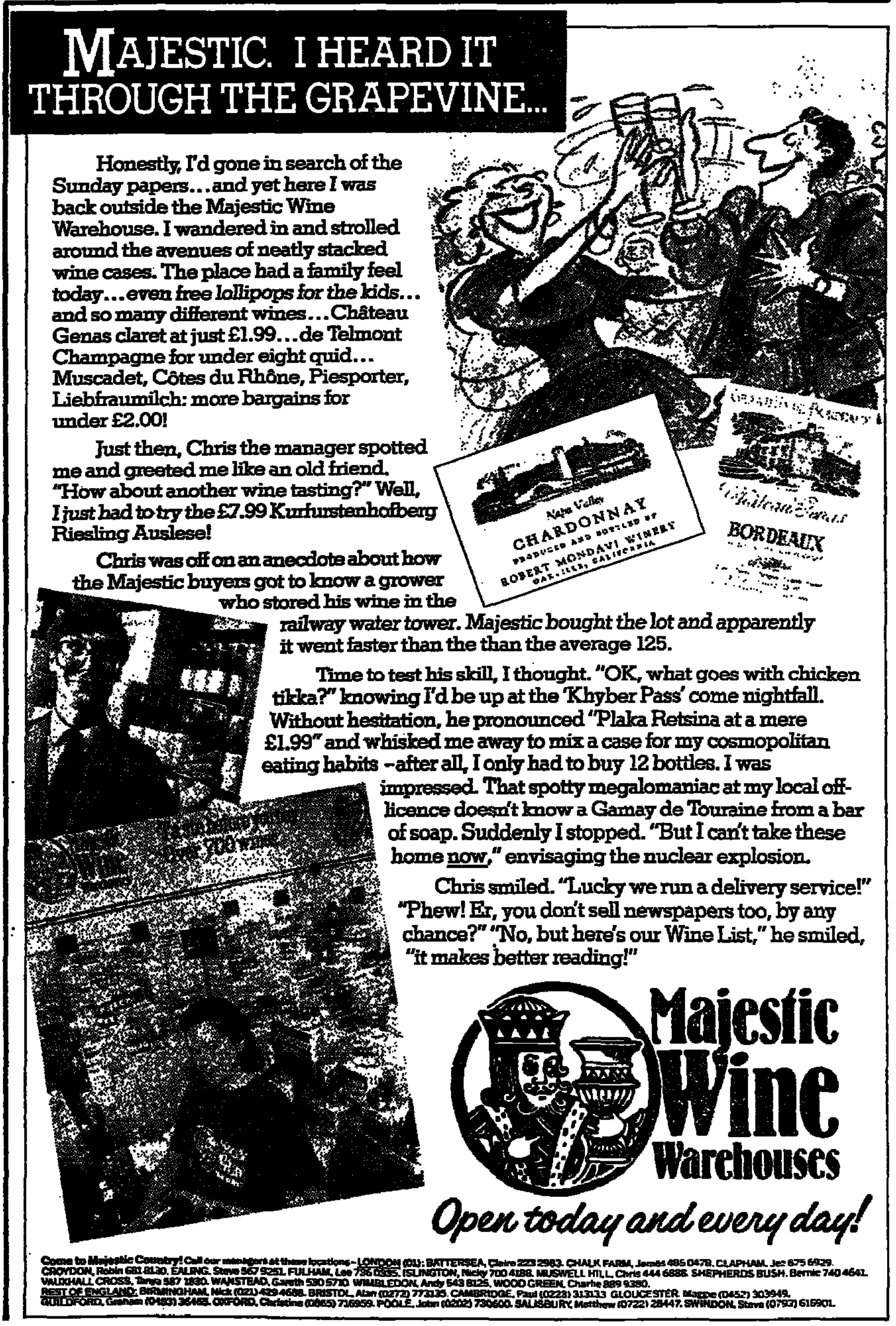
Mr Wakeham told the annual dinner of magistrates at Maldon, Essex: "Where you convict a person of an offence committed on licensed premises, and there is evidence that he or threatened violence, you can make an order banning him from those or any other premises for between three months and two years. The power to make an exclusion order is a valuable one which some landlords say is not used as often as it might be."

Mr Wakeham said there was nothing to stop a landlord insisting on some proof of age before serving a young person. "I am convinced that licensing justices can do a good deal to encourage a responsible attitude on the part of landlords and off-licence holders."

The ministerial group is *studying 50 recommendations* from a working group on young people, alcohol and crime, which is seeking a tightening of the law and more warnings on the damage alcohol can cause to health.

The group suggests a ban on under-age drinking in public and for it to be illegal for anyone aged under 18 to purchase or consume alcohol in licensed premises, registered clubs, wine warehouses, hotels and restaurants.

Where alcohol has been consumed or sold to someone under age, the licensee should prove to a court that all responsible steps had been taken to prevent the offence.



MAJESTIC. I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE...

Honestly, I'd gone in search of the Sunday papers... and yet here I was back outside the Majestic Wine Warehouse. I wandered in and strolled around the avenues of neatly stacked wine cases. The place had a family feel today... *even free lollipops for the kids...* and so many different wines... Château Genas claret at just £1.99... de Telmont Champagne for under eight quid... Muscadet, Côtes du Rhône, Piesporter, Liebfraumilch: more bargains for under £2.00!

Just then, Chris the manager spotted me and greeted me like an old friend. "How about another wine tasting?" Well, *I just had* to try the £7.99 Kurfurstenhofberg Riesling Auslese!

Chris was off on an anecdote about how the Majestic buyers got to know a grower who stored his wine in the *railway water tower. Majestic bought the lot and apparently* it went faster than the than the average 125.

Time to test his skill, I thought. "OK, what goes with chicken tikka?" knowing I'd be up at the 'Khyber Pass' come nightfall. Without hesitation, he pronounced "Plaka Retsina at a mere £1.99" and whisked me away to mix a case for my cosmopolitan eating habits – after all, I only had to buy 12 bottles. I was impressed. That spotty megalomaniac at my local off-licence doesn't know a Gamay de Touraine from a bar of soap. Suddenly I stopped. "But I can't take these home now," envisaging the nuclear explosion.

Chris smiled. "Lucky we run a delivery service!" "Phew! Er, you don't sell newspapers too, by any chance?" "No, but here's our Wine List," he smiled, "it makes better reading!"

Majestic Wine Warehouses

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Come to Majestic Country! Call our managers at these locations – LONDON (01): BATTERSEA, Claire 223 2983. CHALK FARM, James 485 0478. CLAPHAM, Jez 675 6929. CROYDON, Robin 681 8130. EALING, Steve 567 9251. FULHAM, Lee 736 0335. ISLINGTON, Nicky 700 4188. MUSWELL HILL, Chris 444 6888. SHEPHERDS BUSH, Bernie 740 4641. VAUXHALL CROSS, Tanya 587 1830. WANSTEAD, Gareth 530 5710. WIMBLEDON, Andy 543 8125. WOOD GREEN, Charlie 889 9380. REST OF ENGLAND: BIRMINGHAM, Nick (021) 429 4688. BRISTOL, Alan (0272) 773135. CAMBRIDGE, Paul (0223) 313133. GLOUCESTER, Maggie (0452) 303949. GUILDFORD, Graham (0483) 36465. OXFORD, Christine (0865) 716959. POOLE, John (0202) 730600. SALISBURY, Matthew (0722) 28447. SWINDON, Steve (0793) 616901.

Ridley hails community charge as means of restoring local democracy

COMMUNITY AND BUSINESS RATE CHANGES

(based on 1987/88 spending)

	Average rate bill per adult in final year of rates (1989-90)	First yr poll tax per adult (1990-1)	Full poll tax, no safety net (1994-5)	Business rates % rise or fall (1990-1)
GREATER LONDON REGION				
Camden	456	100	782	-3
Greenwich	260	100	608	-4
H'smith/Fulham	225	100	465	-6
Islington	289	100	483	18
Kensington & Chelsea	388	100	370	91
Lambeth	302	100	547	0
Lewisham	369	100	677	-6
Southwark	288	100	570	1
Tower Hamlets	307	100	639	1
Wandsworth	211	100	435	61
Westminster	528	100	396	38
Barking & Dagenham	108	213	221	11
Barnet	317	297	222	21
Bexley	207	211	211	25
Brent	326	326	283	-12
Bromley	217	217	173	38
Croydon	218	218	158	42
Ealing	301	301	278	-11
Enfield	226	226	199	21
Haringey	340	340	329	-17
Harrow	276	276	223	17
Havering	208	208	189	27
Hillingdon	239	239	221	7
Hounslow	205	205	170	-6
Kingston	252	252	212	21
Merton	222	222	173	34
Newham	304	304	304	-15
Redbridge	208	208	171	39
Richmond	291	291	233	16
Sutton	262	262	224	15
Waltham F	351	100	365	-30
SOUTH EAST REGION				
Berkshire				
Bracknell	228	219	144	16
Newbury	228	226	151	17
Reading	210	210	168	11
Slough	208	208	149 19	
Windsor & Maidenhead	270	239	164	15
Wokingham	249	224	149	14
East Sussex				
Brighton	226	226	176	5
Eastbourne	260	248	173	3
Hastings	204	204	169	4
Hove	235	235	174	18
Lewes 247	247	172	6	
Rother	258	251	176	5
Wealden	224	224	175	4
Hampshire				
Basingstoke	208	208	163	17
E Hants	238	238	181	8
Eastleigh	221	221	176	9
Fareham	237	237	179	7
Gosport	206	206	169	9
Hart	259	259	185	4
Havant	229	229	168 10	
New Forest	219	219	181	8
Portsmouth	175	181	187	5
Rushmoor	194	194	182	7
Southampton	182	182	176	7
Test Valley	207	207	171	10
Winchester	233	233	180	7
Isle of Wight				
Medina	196	201	109	-4
S Wight	211	215	215	-7
Kent				
Ashford	178	178	148	15
Canterbury	170	170	152	14
Dartford	151	151	149	14
Dover	151	151	144	18
Gillingham	156	156	150	28
Gravesham	177	177	152	15
Maidstone	170	170	147	17
Rochester	157	157	131	24
Sevenoaks	189	189	151	14
Shepway	201	201	160	13
Swale	147	152	153	13
Thanet	182	182	154	12
Tonbridge	166	166	152	12
Tunbridge Wells	177	177	152	16
Oxfordshire				
Cherwekk	228	228	201	-3
Oxford	235	235	220	-7
S Oxon	254	254	202	-4
White Horse	243	243	193	-1
W Oxon	227	227	205	-4
Surrey				
Elmbridge	366	314	239	8
Epsom/Ewell	300	257	182	5
Guildford	241	235	160	10
Mole Valley	252	244	169	9
Reigate	267	258	183	6
Runnymede	211	211	151	10
Spelthorne	221	221	179	13
Surrey Heath	241	215	140	11
Tandridge	228	228	173	12
Waverley	273	249	174	8
Woking	234	215	140	7
West Sussex				
Adur	223	223	280	2
Arun	219	219	159	12
Chichester	207	207	152	13
Crawley	202	208	219	2
Horsham	208	208	149	14
Mid Sussex	230	230	162	10
Worthing	212	212	155	13
SOUTH WEST REGION				
Avon				
Bath	204	209	224	-5
Bristol	222	227	237	-17
Kingswood	209	209	208	-8
Navon	223	223	221	-11
Wansdyke	217	217	204	-7
Woodspring	243	243	219	-11
Cornwall				
Caradon	163	163	158	10
Carrick	170	170	166	8
Kerrier	148	153	162	7
N Cornwall	168	168	162	8
Penwith	164	164	164	8
Restormel	160	161	161	9
Devon				
E Devon	193	193	187	8
Exeter	164	164	159	10
N Devon	147	152	175	5
Plymouth	174	174	165	8
S Hams	201	201	178	6
Teignbridge	178	178	175	6
Mid Devon	152	157	173	6
Torbay	205	205	177	1
Torridge	134	139	180	4
W Devon	157	163	168	7
Dorset				
Bournemouth	214	214	165	5
Christchurch	242	241	166	7
N Dorset	176	176	156	10
Poole 244	237 162 8			
Purbeck	187	187	154	11
W Dorset	176	178	157	10
Weymouth	170	170	165	6
Wimborne	253	248	173	6
Gloucestershire				
Cheltenham	231	231	180	5
Cotswold	230	230	180	6
Forest of Dean	162	167	191	2
Gloucester	182	183	183	4
Stroud	204	204	192	2
Tewkesbury	215	215	173	6
Somerset				
Mendip	188	188	178	3
Sedgemoor	198	198	191	0
Taunton Deane	187	187	181	2
W Somerset	203	203	181	3
S Somerset	186	186	178	2
Wiltshire				
Kennet	192	192	190	1
N Wilts	176	181	201	-2
Salisbury	206	208	184	4
Thamesdown	206	212	238	-13
W Wilts	183	186	186	1
Isles of Scilly	168	168	93	16
EASTERN REGION				
Bedfordshire				
N Beds	262	262	241	-12
Luton	293	293	239	-14
Mid Beds	255	255	233	-12
S Beds	292	292	236	-13
Buckinghamshire				
Aylesbury Vale	250	250	191	1
S Bucks	397	261	206	1
Chiltern	393	285	211	1
Milton Keynes	266	266	221	-5
Wycombe	322	276	201	0
Cambridgeshire				
Cambridge	263	263	190	-0
E Cambs	191	191	182	2
Fenland	181	185	185	-0
Huntingdon	206	206	181	1
Peterborough	231	231	214	-7
S Cambs	251	242	167	2
Essex				
Basildon	325	325	259	-11
Braintree	219	219	177	2
Brentwood	355	355	339	2
Castle Point	262	261	186	3
Chelmsford	269	256	181	5
Colchester	211	211	168	5
Epping Forest	293	259	184	1
Harlow	321	321	315	-22
Maldon	256	254	179	2
Rochford	269	252	177	1
Southend-on-Sea	275	259	184	2
Tendring	240	240	184	-0
Thurrock	274	274	242	6
Uttlesford	264	258	183	2
Hertfordshire				
Broxbourne	250	250	194	-2
Dacorum	287	273	198	-1
E Herts	257	257	196	-2
Hertsmere	306	287	212	-6
N Herts	275	272	197	-2
St Albans	296	279	204	-0
Stevenage	287	287	233	-9
Three Rivers	313	280	205	-4
Watford	263	263	206	-5
Welwyn Hatfield	299	299	225	-8
Norfolk				
Breckland	165	165	147	17
Broadland	187	187	152	17
Great Yarmouth	175	175	166	10
N Norfolk	170	170	152	18
Norwich	183	183	172	3
S Norfolk	186	186	149	17
King's Lynn/W Norfolk	154	154	154	16
Suffolk				
Babergh	202	202	173	6
Forest Heath	167	169	169	9
Ipswich	215	215	192	-1
Mid Suffolk	187	187	177	5
St Edmundsbury	183	183	161	9
Suffolk Coastal	222	222	178	4
Waveney	189	189	175	5
WEST MIDLANDS REGION				
Hereford and Worcester				
Bromsgrove	209	209	135	20
Hereford	157	157	149	17
Leominster	149	149	146	17
Malvern Hills	207	207	150	14
Redditch	210	210	153	11
S Herefordshire	147	147	133	21
Worcester	208	206	150	13
Wychavon	223	223	150	14
Wyre Forest	200	200	166	11
Shropshire				
Bridgnorth	192	192	172	11
N Shropshire	170	175	177	10
Oswestry	165	170	183	8
Shrewsbury	205	205	188	8
S Shropshire	162	168	176	11
The Wrekin	209	209	203	2
Staffordshire				
Cannock Chase	192	192	186	2
E Staffs	184	184	177	1
Lichfield	232	232	174	2
Newcastle	189	189	186	-1
S Staffs	234	234	172	3
Stafford	203	203	177	4
Staffs Moorlands	184	184	184	0
Stoke-on-Trent	168	173	187	-1
Tamworth	211	211	183	3
Warwickshire				
N Warwicks	217	217	208	-7
Nuneaton & Bedworth	219	219	200	-5
Rugby	222	222	180	1
Stratford	264	249	174	3
Warwick	257	251	176	2
West Midlands				
Birmingham	249	249	186	-7
Coventry	239	239	219	-13
Dudley	248	248	203	-4
Sandwell	200	200	175	-5
Solihull	260	238	163	14
Walsall	222	222	191	-12
Wolverhampton	254	254	205	-6
EAST MIDLANDS REGION				
Derbyshire				
Amber Valley	200	225	237	-22
Bolsover	200	205	266	-27
Chesterfield	222	227	246	-24
Derby	263	263	237	-22
Erewash	228	233	237	-20
High Peak	213	219	245	-24
N E Derbys	234	239	252	-26
S Derbys	236	236	232	-22
Leicestershire				
Blaby	222	222	189	2
Charnwood	131	231	195	3
Harborough	239	239	196	-1
Hinckley	210	210	185	4
Leicester	184	189	220	-9
Melton	224	224	204	10
N W Leics	213	213	210	-4
Oadby/Wigston	232	232	194	2
Rutland	208	208	195	2
Lincolnshire				
Boston	158	158	152	13
E Lindsey	158	258	157	10
Lincoln	152	257	258	9
N Kesteven	154	255	255	10
S Holland	152	155	155	10
S Kesteven	169	169	154	13
W Lindsey	155	160	166	7
Northamptonshire				
Corby	202	202	189	-0
Daventry	265	265	232	-0
E Nants	177	177	158	7
Kettering	192	192	186	1
Nampton	224	224	188	-2
S Nants	228	228	171	7
Wellingborough	195	195	180	3
Nottinghamshire				
Ashfield	163	168	209	-16
Bassetlaw	183	189	238	-19
Broxtowe	198	202	202	-14
Gedling	206	206	201	-14
Mansfield	186	191	237	-16
Newark	186	191	209	-14
Nottingham	190	195	207	-15
Rushcliffe	229	229	205	-15
YORKSHIRE AND HUMBERSIDE REGION				
Humberside				
Beverley	240	240	219	-8
Boothferry	164	170	224	-9
Cleethorpes	196	201	229	-10
Glanford	191	196	219	07
Great Grimsby	182	188	219	-8
Holderness	194	199	215	-6
Kingston-o-Hull	181	187	248	-18
E Yorks	180	185	230	-12
Scunthorpe	209	214	261	-14
North Yorkshire				
Craven	153	159	184	3
Hambleton	177	179	179	4
Harrogate	202	206	206	-3
Richmondshire	149	155	184	3
Ryedale	159	164	181	4
Scarborough	165	170	192	0
Selby	159	165	200	0
York	136	141	173	8
South Yorkshire				
Barnsley	168	173	264	-25
Doncaster	204	210	280	-26
Rotherham	184	189	252	-27
Sheffield	190	195	248	-30
West Yorkshire				
Bradford	191	196	238	-26
Calderdale	171	175	259	-24
Kirklees	167	172	246	-22
Leeds	177	182	204	-10
Wakefield	190	195	254	-22
NORTHERN REGION				
Cleveland				
Hartlepool	210	215	268	-22
Langbaurgh	247	252	270	-24
Middlesboro	247	252	277	-24
Stockton	245	250	250	-21
Durham				
Chester-le-street	179	184	214	-12
Darlington	200	205	245	-17
Derwentside	176	181	264	-16
Durham	171	176	224	-13
Easington	143	148	198	-10
Sedgefield	169	174	253	-18
Teesdale	129	134	194	-4
Wear Valley	149	155	247	-18
Northumberland				
Alnwick	172	177	215	-4
Berwick	173	178	206	05
Blyth Valley	207	212	252	-15
Castle Morpeth	214	215	215	-8
Tynedale	181	186	217	-7
Wansbeck	175	180	251	-17
Tyne and Wear				
Gateshead	192	197	263	-17
Newcastle	253	259	292	-32
N Tyneside	234	239	266	-27
S Tyneside	183	188	254	-18
Sunderland	195	200	262	-24
NORTH WEST REGION				
Cheshire				
Chester	230	230	194	-6
Congleton	214	214	187	-6
Crewe	214	214	192	-7
Ellesmere Port	239	239	216	-7
Halton	197	197	194	-8
Macclesfield	265	258	183	-3
Vale Royal	208	208	189	-7
Warrington	204	204	192	-8
Cumbria				
Allerdale	174	180	252	-18
Barrow in Furness	159	164	257	-19
Carlisle	196	201	264	-19
Copeland	162	168	258	-18
Eden	174	179	243	-16
S Lakeland	221	226	252	-16
GREATER MANCHESTER				
Bolton	197	202	202	-8
Bury	254	254	244	-16
Manchester	255	261	272	-37
Oldham	178	184	201	-12
Rochdale	193	199	236	-25
Salford	233	238	243	-19
Stockport	238	238	183	-2
Tameside	197	203	233	-22
Trafford	218	218	156	1
Wigan	211	216	245	-21
Lancashire				
Blackburn	144	149	206	-13
Blackpool	188	193	194	-4
Burnley	142	147	239	14
Chorley	180	185	190	-1
Fylde	209	209	189	-1
Hyndburn	137	142	212	-7
Lancaster	162	167	190	1
Pendle	132	137	212	-8
Preston	173	178	201	-5
Ribble Valley	171	176	199	-2
Rossendale	158	164	228	-9
S Ribble	175	180	189	0
W Lancs	215	215	190	-1
Wyre	190	190	189	1
MERSEYSIDE				
Knowsley	251	256	267	-29
Liverpool	258	263	301	-31
St Helens	220	225	243	-25
Sefton	242	242	210	-14
Wirral	280	280	246	-21

*No safety net

North to gain from business rate

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

Thirty-five million adults will pay a flat rate community charge set by local councils after the passage of the Local Government Finance Bill, published yesterday.

It was hailed by Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment, as the means of restoring democracy to local government.

Domestic rates, paid by 18 million people, are to disappear in April 1990, apart from in the highest spending areas of London where they will be phased out over four years.

Leading article..................9

The non domestic rating system will be replaced by a national business rate, which will be prevented from rising each year by more than the rate of inflation. Introduction of the system will be preceded by a revaluation of non domestic properties.

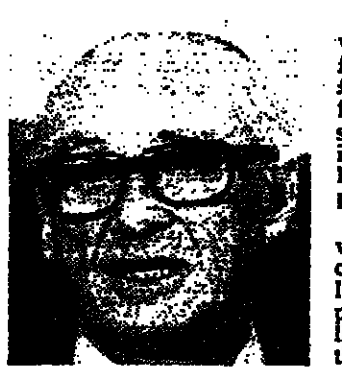
The change will mean increases for businesses in low rated areas, but big rises will be phased in over five years. There will be big falls in most parts of the North, but corresponding increases in the South.

All adults aged 18 or more will be liable to pay the community charge in the area where they live. There will be exemptions for the severely mentally handicapped, people solely or mainly resident in hospitals and residential homes, diplomats, visiting servicemen and for those aged under 19 and still at school. Nuns and monks will be added to the list.

Students will pay 20 per cent of the charge. People on income support, which replaces supplementary benefit in April, will get an 80 per cent rebate and their income support will be uprated by 20 per cent of the average community charge to cover the difference.

People on low pay but above income support level will also qualify for rebates, as under the rate rebate system, on a sliding scale of relief. Ministers have yet to work out the details.

People living in multi-occupied accommodation will pay a collective community charge contribution to their landlord, who will be charged according to the number of adults who live at the property, less a 5 per cent discount for administration costs.


Mr Nicholas Ridley, giving details of the Bill yesterday.

Properties such as second homes, at which no one is solely or mainly resident, will be liable to a standard charge equal to two units of community charge for the area.

Every district and borough will keep a register of those liable to pay the charge, based on canvassing, notification of change of address and other sources available to local authorities. The first nationwide canvass will take place in the summer of 1989.

Failure to respond or to supply incorrect information would attract a civil penalty of £50 for the first offence and £200 for each successive offence. Individual bills will be sent and married and cohabiting couples will be jointly liable for each other's payments.

The safety net, through which the grant system allocates more money to areas of low rateable values, will be phased out over four years to limit the impact of moves to the new system.

The Government is taking powers in the Bill to "cap" community charges if authorities set what it regards as unacceptably high figures. Mr Ridley said that he hoped the Government would never have to use the powers and that councils would respond to their electorates.

The national business rate, to be set by the Government but collected by the local authorities, is designed to tackle the widely differing business rate poundages set by councils, from 117.4p in Kensington, west London, to 354.5p in Manchester, which the Government believes damages efficiency and distorts competition.

The national business poundage will be equivalent to the average of the individual poundages set by councils in the last year of the rates; so the proportion of spending financed by business rates will remain the same.

The new business rate will mean increases in areas where they are at present low. The combined effect of revaluation and the move to the new rate will result in substantial increases for a small number of businesses.

The Government said that businesses in the North and the Midlands stood to be better off by about £700 million a year.

The Bill will simplify the system of paying central government grants to local authorities by introducing a single revenue support grant to compensate fully for differences between areas in the need to provide local services. The system is designed to ensure the community charge will be the same in areas receiving a standard level of local authority services.

Mr Ridley, pressed about the problems of poll tax evasion, said all taxes could be avoided. He admitted that the evasion rate might be between 1 per cent and 5 per cent.

Question-and-answer guide to poll tax

The Government published a question-and-answer guide to the new system, which includes the following extracts:

Q: Who will be the gainers and who will be the losers?

A: On present estimates, more than half of households will be better off, and half of those losing will lose less than £1 per week. Among gainers will be most single adult households. Among losers will be households with several adults.

Q: Will the charge vary from one area to another?

A: Yes. The charge will vary in line with local councils' spending policies. Spending above the standard level will result in a pound-for-pound increase in the community charge, and, conversely, savings from improved efficiency will reduce the charge.

Q: Who will draw up the initial register?

A: The local council will appoint a community charges registration officer. Each household will be canvassed and registration officers will be able to cross check other sources, such as schools, library and council house records.

Q: Who will be responsible for providing this information?

A: One person at each address will be required to be responsible for canvasses. In most cases this will be the owner or main tenant of the property.

Q: Will local councils be able to look at other sources, such as medical or tax records?

A: No, councils will not be able to use national sources of information about individuals. But they will be able to use the information they have from existing services.

Q: Won't publishing the register put some people living alone at risk?

A: It will not be possible to tell, from an extract, whether a person is living alone.

Q: I pay my rates by instalments. Can I pay my community charge in the same way?

A: Yes. Payment by 10 monthly instalments will be the normal way of paying, but people will be able to pay half-yearly or in one lump sum, if their council agrees.

Q: What about big families with adult children and dependent elderly relatives living at home. Will the community charge will be unfair to them?

A: Every adult will be liable to pay the charge, whether they live alone or with other family members. Parents will not be responsible for adult children or elderly relatives.

Q: What about people who live away from home during the week for employment reasons?

A: The community charge will be payable in the area where someone has his or her main residence. If a second home is involved, it will be up to the local council to decide what charge is payable.

Q: What about caravans used as second homes?

A: A standard charge will be payable set as one unit of the local personal charge.

Q: What about mobile homes?

A: Residents of mobile homes used as a sole or main residence will pay the personal charge for their area.

Q: What about houseboats used as a main home and boats used as a second home?

A: People who live in permanently moored boats use local services and will be required to pay the local personal charge for the area.

Q: What is the overall impact on businesses and on the North-South divide?

A: If, as we propose, the national non-domestic rate (NNDR) is set at the national average poundage, rates will fall in high-rated areas – where local spending is high and unemployment tends to be high also – and increase in low-rated areas. Together with the revaluation of non-domestic property, businesses in the North and the Midlands stand to be better off by £700 million a year.

Q: How many businesses will lose from the NNDR?

A: Setting the NNDR to raise roughly the same yield as non-domestic rates will inevitably mean that businesses in low rated areas will face increases in their local tax bills.

December 4 1987 PARLIAMENT

Mayhew rejects charges of censorship

Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General, strongly rejected Labour charges of censorship against the Government for using court action to stop BBC transmission of programmes about the security services.

Sir Patrick defended the action he had taken on behalf of the Government as an exercise of its duty to protect the "confidentiality owed by members and former members of the security services."

The Opposition had demanded an explanation of Government action and Sir Patrick answered with a long quotation from a newspaper report of what was contained in the three-programme BBC Radio 4 series *My country, right or wrong.*

He continued: "Members and former members of the security services are under a life-long duty to the Crown of confidentiality in relation to information deriving from their employment. The Government, in the interests of the security of this country, attaches high importance to protecting that confidentiality."

In the light of evidence in the report in *The Daily Telegraph* "Peterborough" column, the Treasury Solicitor had asked the BBC's legal adviser whether the report, that three former MI5 people, three former MI6 agents and three from GCHQ were appearing, was true.

He had been told that nine members and former members of the security and intelligence services would take part. All were identified by name but the BBC legal adviser had considered the programme carefully and considered that none breached the duty of confidentiality. He had said that *The Daily Telegraph* story was a gross over-representation of the programme's contents.

The Treasury Solicitor had said that he could not rely on the adviser's legal opinion that there was no breach of the duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown, without a sight of the transcript. That was refused, as was the request for the names of the members and former members of the security services. (Conservative protests).

Following consultation with the court, the Treasury Solicitor had later asked for a copy of the transcript limited to the contributions of those members and former members of the security services. (Labour protests). That, also, was refused.

Mr Justice Henry had granted an order in the terms the Government had sought and had given the BBC liberty to apply, on 24 hours written notice, for the variation or discharge of the order.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs, asked if the Government view now was that allegations of illegal and subversive action must never be published without newspapers informing the "proper authorities."

Was that not censorship of the kind emulated by every tinpot dictatorship?

He believed the BBC programmes had been discussed both with the security services and the D-notice committee, [concerned with security matters and the media] who were satisfied as to their general nature.

Had this gagging injunction been sought not because it related to the content of the programme, but to counter a charge of inconsistency in relation to the treatment of *Spycatcher* and other books?

Which interpretation of the order did the Government rely upon – the reportedly wide one of the Attorney General's office, in accordance with the July ruling that it applied to every organ, in addition to the BBC, and to every person? Or the narrow one, as reported in that morning's edition of *The Times*, the Number 10 Downing Street view, that it applied only to that series of radio programmes?

Sir Patrick: It is not for me to comment upon a matter which is directly in issue in litigation, in the case of *The Guardian, The Sunday Times* and *The Observer*, which is currently in the High Court in this country.

The order granted to the Government restrained the BBC in the following terms: From broadcasting, or causing or permitting to be broadcast, as part of a radio programme entitled *My country Right or Wrong*, scheduled to be broadcast by the BBC on Friday December 4 1987, or in any way whatsoever, any interviews with, or information derived from, current or former members of the security or intelligence services of the United Kingdom relating to any aspect of the work of the said services, including their identity as current or former members thereof.

There was no question of censorship in the action he had undertaken on behalf of the Government on Thursday.

The action had every connection with the duty of Government to protect the confidentiality owed to the Crown by members and former members of the intelligence community.

"Had the BBC been prepared to meet the reasonable request of the Treasury Solicitor that he should see passages of the transcript relating to contributions from members and former members of the service, very much difficulty would have been overcome" (Labour protests and Conservative cheers).

The Government had first learned of the full extent of the programme on Thursday.

Leading counsel for the BBC had made no comment about the width of the injunction – although he was opposed to any injunction on the programme.

"It is not for me to interpret the order made by the judge. It speaks for itself."

Mr Michael Mates (East Hampshire, C) asked what the position would have been if the programme had gone out and there had been a breach of security, perhaps unwittingly.

The press would have said that the information was in the public domain and could be repeated. Governments had to keep secrets secret.

Sir Patrick said Mr Mates was right.

There would have been a real and very patent risk if material went forth of the kind described in the *Daily Telegraph* article and if it was material that was obtained or published in breach of the duty of confidentiality thereafter.

It might very well be said that it was then in the public domain, and so the boundaries were pushed further back. That was not a risk the Government felt it could properly take.

Mr David Steel, Leader of the Liberal Party, said that the Attorney General had told the House that he acted yesterday in lumbering into this legal action on the basis of an item in a gossip column. He had ignored the fact that the nature of the programme had been known to Conservative MPs who appeared in it, over many months. Details about it had appeared in the *Radio Times*.

The programme had the Director General's authority. The Attorney General's action should have been limited to calling the attention of the Director General of the BBC to the public obligations of the corporation.

This was yet another symptom of the dangerous slide to authoritarianism into which the Government was taking the country.

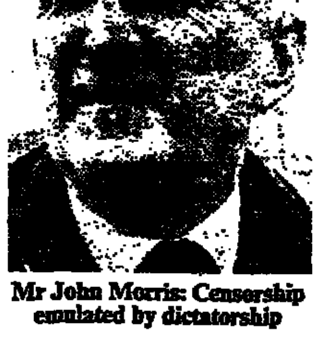
Sir Patrick said that he disputed Mr Steel's last remark vigorously.

It was wrong to suggest that the Government had been motivated by authoritarian considerations. The Government wished to protect the security of the country by protecting the duty of confidentiality owed by all former servants of the Crown.

It was not much of a criticism to say that the Government was spurred into the action it took by an entry in a gossip column. Suppose that the Government, having been put on clear notice of the content of the programme and the quality of its individual contributions, had done nothing? Then it would be said that the Government blew hot and cold. There was no way the Government could properly and responsibly have ignored the very detailed story.

Mr Michael Heseltine (Henley, C) said that he had recorded a contribution to this potential programme. There was a total distinction between an analysis of the purposes of, and the need to protect the security services, which was a legitimate subject around which the BBC could arrange a programme in which he thought he was taking part, and the Government's absolute right to insist that servants and former servants abided by the contracts into which they entered, particularly if the security of the nation could be prejudiced.

Mr Marlow: Grubby Opposition campaign


Mr John Morris: Censorship emulated by dictatorship

Sir Patrick said that there was no criticism of individual contributors to the programme, who included many distinguished people, only of those who might have done so in breach of their duty of confidentiality owed to the Crown.

He did not know if they had done so. He could have been put in the picture if the request for the names had been granted but it had not been. He could not possibly have advised his colleagues to have accepted that risk.

Mr Eric Heffer (Liverpool, Walton, Lab) said that the Attorney General was really saying that there ought not to be in this country proper and responsible discussion about the role of the security services (Conservative protests) just because some who actually took part in it might or might not actually reveal something.

It was clear that this Government wanted action to try to cover up something rather nasty which the *Spycatcher* book had revealed, that a previous Labour government was being undermined by a service they all ought to know more about.

Sir Patrick said that it was an extraordinary contention that you had got to wait until the horse had left the stable before making any legal moves. That could not be right.

Mr Jonathan Aitken (Thanet South, C) asked if the Attorney General would reconsider the last part of his previous answer. Long before the *Daily Telegraph* item caused such excitment in Whitehall, some of the retired security service officers who took part in the programme, had written to inform the Director General of the security services of their participation and of the content of their contribution, apparently without any objection.

Would he accept from someone who had taken part in the hitherto rather obscure radio programme, that it had virtually nothing to do with current or past security matters, but had been an academic discussion about accountability and the need for further oversight?

Could not the Government cool down a little and try to draw a line between necessary confidentiality of the security services and the responsible need for democratic discussion in a more appropriate place?

Sir Patrick said that one former officer had said that he had made a contribution to the programme, but there had been no information available to the Government until the previous day of the scope and scale of the programme.

Mr Antony Marlow (Northampton North, C) said there was a grubby little campaign by the sneaks and narks among the Opposition who showed a cavalier attitude towards national security. Had he discussed with Mr Morris the attitude he would have taken had he found himself in the same position?

Sir Patrick said that he had watched Mr Morris on *Newsnight* the previous evening and again that morning.

"He was twice asked the question and twice he dodged it. He is prepared to wound but afraid to strike."

British role in Cyprus

The British Government must "bend every sinew" to bring a just and lasting settlement to the tragic and wasteful division of Cyprus, **Mr David Mellor**, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during a Commons debate.

It would try to achieve that through supporting the United Nations initiative to bring about a unified, federal Cyprus.

The debate was initiated by **Mr William Shelton** (Streatham, C) who said that Nicosia airport, now used only by the United Nations, should again become an international airport.

Mr Donald Anderson, an Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs, said that the United Kingdom had, or should have, a role in resolving the conflict. "By inaction, we are supporting the status quo – the continuing partition of the island."

هكذا من الاصل

Doctors back lower drink-drive limit and random testing

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Doctors are calling for a reduction in the permitted alcohol level for drivers and the simultaneous introduction of random breath testing.

The two measures would stop most social drinkers from driving and would trap more drivers with serious drink problems, a report in the *British Medical Journal* says.

"Random breath testing changes the behaviour of those who drink and drive. At present in Britain many social drinkers drink and drive, and tens of thousands are arrested each year.

"They would be largely deterred from drinking and driving by random breath testing, and far fewer proportionally would face arrest.'

Their suggested limit would mean that one pint of beer or a large whisky would put some drivers in jeopardy. Lowering the legal limit from 80 milligrams per decilitre to 50 mg/dl would in itself be unlikely to have any effect on drinking and driving, the doctors say. Enforcement was needed.

The report is by Dr James Dunbar, director of the Tayside Safe Driving Project, Dundee, and two medical researchers in Finland, where lower limits and random checks have been introduced.

Professor Anthony Clare, of the department of psychological medicine at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, London, says in a *BMJ* editorial that the government campaign against drinking and driving is of "questionable efficacy without adequate enforcement."

A man who had drunk three times the legal limit of alcohol when he hit a pedestrian and sped across a platform at Paddington railway station on November 21 was jailed for three months yesterday by Marylebone magistrates, west London. David Knapper, aged 22, unemployed, of Talbot Square, Paddington, west London, was also banned from driving for two years.

"The convicted drink-driving offender has no incentive to face up to his problem drinking."

In a separate report published yesterday, the Government is accused of ignoring an epidemic of alcohol abuse.

There is a "scandalous" lack of funding for advice services, according to Alcohol Concern. The charity estimates that more than a million people are affected but says that only one in 20 problem drinkers receives the necessary help.

It urges the Government to recognize the crisis by providing £15 million to improve services.

At least 6,000 deaths a year are attributable to alcohol consumption and drink is a factor in up to 62 per cent of serious head injuries, 66 per cent of suicide attempts and 50 per cent of murders, the report says.

Mr Gerald Conyngham, services director, said: "Advice services are so unevenly spread around the country that where you happen to live often determines whether you can get help".

Poorly-served areas named in the report are Surrey, Cheshire, Hertfordshire, most of the outer London boroughs, Solihull and large parts of Wales.

Good areas include Leicestershire, Norwich, east Kent, Tyne and Wear and Exeter.

Alcohol Services: The Future (Alcohol Concern, 305 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8QF; £3.95 plus 50p postage).

Vets reject tendering over herd diseases

By John Young
Agriculture Correspondent

Government proposals to put the control of animal diseases out to competitive tender have provoked an unprecedented confrontation with the veterinary profession.

At a meeting of the British Veterinary Association council, speaker after speaker was said to have rejected the idea that veterinary surgeons should tender for statutory testing for tuberculosis and brucellosis.

Mr Michael Wright, the association's president, yesterday compared the tendering idea with that of asking general practitioners to bid for National Health Service work.

Tendering had been described as unethical by the Royal Veterinary College, which said it struck at the heart of the relationship between farmers and their local veterinary surgeons.

Mr Bernard Wells, the association's senior vice-president, said: "We could well end up with people equipped with nothing more than just one syringe, prepared to travel the country, do the work and then disappear."

Mr Ralph Baker, chairman of the National Farmers' Union animal health and welfare committee, said that farmers wanted to retain their own veterinary surgeons.

School forms fire brigade

Eighty children at All Hallows School in Dorset, have formed a fire brigade to protect their remote public school. The sixth form fire fighters are equipped with their own fire engine, helmets and protective clothing, and fire chiefs hope that in the event of fire they will contain the flames until the professionals arrive from Lyme Regis, 20 miles away.

The scheme was the idea of Mr Peter Larkman, headmaster of the 300-pupil school, who spent £1,000 from school funds for the fire engine.

Professional firemen helped to train the crew of eight, including two girls, aged between 15 and 18, some of whom are seen at work above.

A Dorset Fire Brigade spokesman said: "It's a unique idea. We are sure they will make a good job of it if they are needed"

Photograph: Peter Trievnor

Pub bomb suspects 'were most hated men'

The Irishmen arrested after the Birmingham public house bombings "must have been the most hated men to have passed through any police station", the Court of Appeal was told yesterday.

Lord Gifford, QC, made his comment as he repeated his allegation that police were involved in a conspiracy against the suspects.

Making his final submissions on behalf of the six Irishmen on the twenty-fifth day of their appeal against their murder convictions, Lord Gifford said that they suffered violence at the hands of police, who invented their confessions.

These allegations have been denied by the crown.

Lord Gifford said the new evidence given by two former police officers could not be ignored.

At the end of his submission he said his argument that the "twin pillars" of the prosecution case – the scientific evidence and the men's confession – were cracked and flawed had been sustained by the new evidence raised at the appeal.

The six appellants are: William Power, aged 42; Patrick Hill, 42, John Walker, 52; Robert Hunter, 41; Richard McIlkenny, 53 and Hugh Callaghan, 57. All are from Birmingham.

The hearing continues.

Wounded boys go home to Beirut

Two boys who arrived in Britain on stretchers after being crippled by snipers' bullets in Beirut left for home yesterday – doing stunts in their wheelchairs.

Bilal Shebab, aged seven, and Samir Ibrahim, aged nine, were flown in six months ago, partly paralysed and bedridden. They left showing off their wheelchair skills but able to walk with crutches.

The boys, brought to Britain after a campaign by Dr Pauline Cutting, have been treated at Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Buckinghamshire, where they were "adopted" by Jimmy Savile, the television personality and charity camapaigner.

Before they left Heathrow the doctor who is going with them explained why they had to return. Dr Swee Ang, who is making her fifth trip to the refugee camps in the Lebanon, said: "A broken home is still a home.

"I suppose home is where your people are. These boys belong with their families."

Dr Cutting, who was at the airport, said: "They will certainly miss their friends". Asked if there were fears for their security in the Lebanon, she replied: "We are not unduly worried because they have learnt to look after themselves so well."

Bilal said he was looking forward "very much to going back home". He would "definitely" keep in touch with Samir.

The boys have been looked after by Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Spy book an insult, QC says

It was an insult to the British security services that a disloyal officer, such as Peter Wright, should have his book *Spycatcher* marketed "as if he was a hero", Mr Robert Alexander, QC, told the High Court in London yesterday.

Making final submissions in support of the Government's claim for a permanent ban on press reporting of the book's contents, he told Mr Justice Scott: "It is clearly highly offensive and a source of frustration to the security service if someone who is disloyal to his country should have his book marketed as if he was a hero".

The Government's application, which is being brought by Sir Patrick Mayhew, Attorney General, is being contested by *The Guardian*, the *Observer* and *The Sunday Times*.

Mr Alexander said the Government's case was based on the "simple principle" that those who worked for the security services and agreed to keep quiet about their work, should honour their obligation of silence. "It is an obligation that does not seem attractive to the media."

The judge commented that, where "battle" had been joined over the right to publish, there was a balance to be struck between the requirements of public interest and the advantages of publication and the requirements of secrecy. "In the end, the courts must decide it", he said.

The hearing continues.

Women in cancer risk study

Women who have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer are being sought by researchers for a study of inherited risks of the two diseases.

The aim of the study at the Institute of Cancer Research, south-west London, is to identify for screening family members who have a higher than normal risk. Both diseases can be treated if detected early.

About 15,000 women a year die from breast cancer.

Jobless youth killed himself

A teenager pinned his unemployment benefit card above his head before hanging himself from a tree, an inquest in Cardiff was told yesterday.

Craig Caparros, aged 16, of Birchgrove, Cardiff, became depressed after losing his job at a plastics factory. Dr Lawrence Addictt, the coroner, returned a verdict that the youth killed himself by hanging.

Crew saved as trawler sinks

The seven-man crew of the 150-ton French trawler Origan which sank in heavy seas yesterday 45 miles off Falmouth were rescued by a sister ship before Royal Navy helicopters arrived.

Solicitor is questioned over missing £2.4m

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

A solicitor is being questioned by the police over the whereabouts of £2.4 million.

The Law Society has taken over the running of the practice of Mr Richard Baruch, who has offices in Woodford Green and Gants Hill, Essex, at his request.

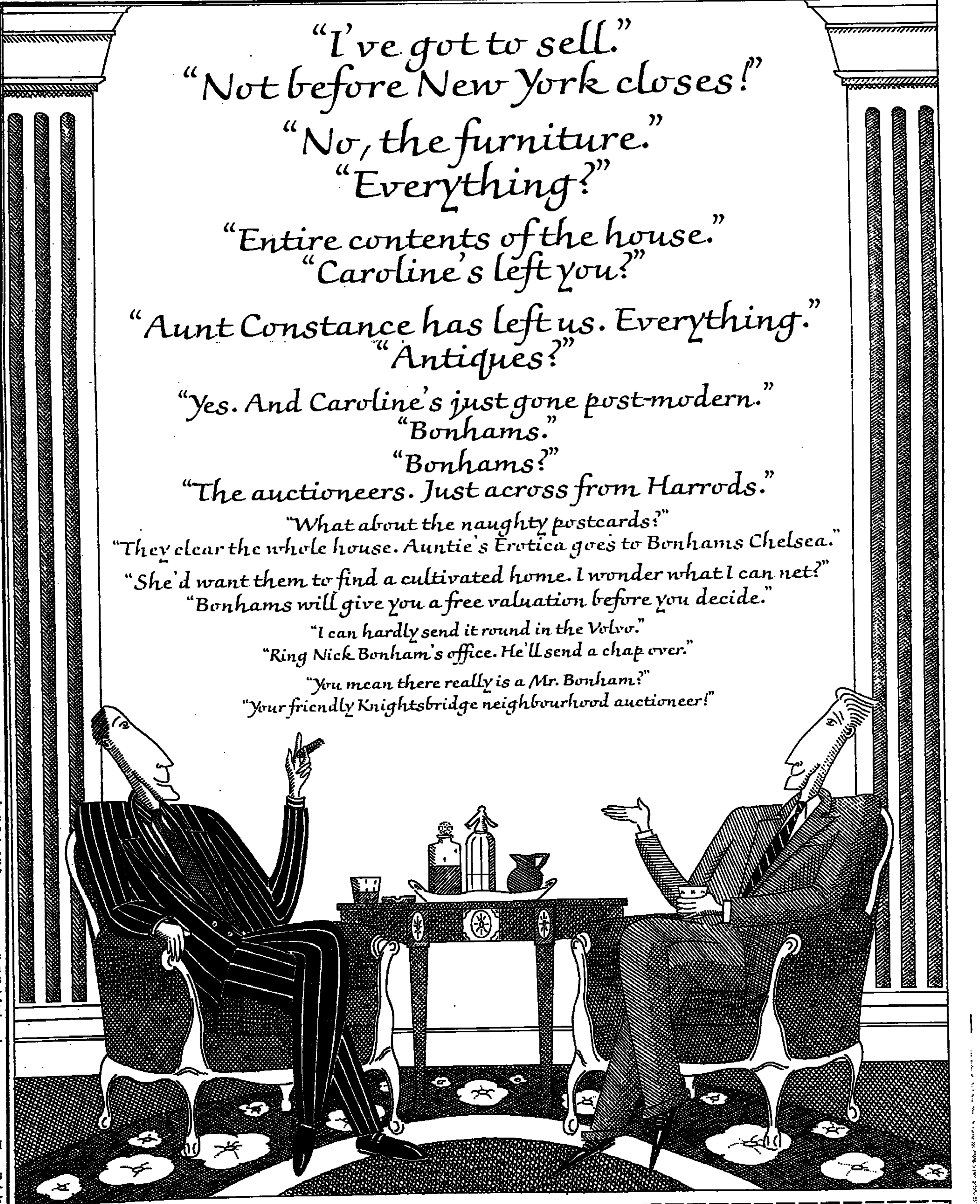
Another solicitor, Mr Michael Cornish, has been sent in by the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau to act as an agent for Mr Baruch's practice and protect clients' interests. The bureau will also investigate the accounts.

Mr Baruch, of Church Lane, Loughton, Essex, achieved widespread publicity when he advertised extensively last year on the London commercial station, Capital Radio.

● A London barrister, Miss Dora Belford, has been suspended for nine months for professional misconduct, the council of the Inns of Court announced yesterday.

Miss Belford, who has chambers off Cursitor Street, Chancery Lane, central London, was found guilty by a disciplinary tribunal of conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Two charges against her alleged that she repeatedly failed to abide by Judge Lea's rulings at Reading Crown Court in July 1984 when she appeared as defence counsel.



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What's on auction at Bonhams

WORLD ROUNDUP

Atlanta jail siege draws to a close

New York – The 11-day Atlanta jail siege neared an end yesterday when 1,105 rebellious Cuban prisoners released all 89 of their remaining hostages in return for promises from the Government and pledged to give themselves up to the authorities (Charles Bremner writes).

Families of the guards and prison staff gave the hostages a joyous welcome when they started streaming out of the prison gates and began medical check-ups and debriefing by the FBI. The prisoners approved a deal, signed by six of their spokesmen with the Government, which included promises of no additional punishment for the jail takeover, reviews of their cases by June 30, and permission for some to go to any third country willing to accept them.

A similar agreement was struck last Sunday with rioting prisoners in Oakdale, Louisiana. Like the Atlanta inmates, they took over their detention centre to press demands to be spared from deportation back to Cuba under an accord the United States reached with Havana two weeks ago. Cuba had agreed to take back unwanted refugees who fled to the US in the 1980 mass migration from the port of Mariel.

Leading article, page 9

Gibraltar silence

Gibraltar – Sir Joshua Hassan, Chief Minister of Gibraltar, returned to the Rock yesterday from the Anglo-Spanish talks determined to keep silent on his Government's position on the question of joint use of the airport with Spain (Dominique Searle writes)

. The opposition party has said it would not agree to this concession.

Sir Joshua said he was giving the matter consideration as Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had requested. He felt there was a type of "psychosis" over the matter in Gibraltar and said people were not in a condition to make an assessment. His party would explain its position by the time it called an election, probably within two months.

Iran arms ban move

New York – The Western powers are expected to move quickly to win Soviet support for an arms embargo against Iran after the failure of last-ditch talks in New York this week to persuade Tehran to accept a United Nations order for a ceasefire in the Gulf war (Charles Bremner writes).

Mr Mohammed Larijani, an Iranian deputy foreign minister, left for home yesterday after dispelling hopes that his Government might accept ceasefire terms ordered by the Security Council in July. Diplomats say that Moscow appears to have little choice but to accept an embargo for the sake of the credibility of the Security Council. Iraq has said it will observe the ceasefire if Iran also does so.

Boy driver starts at 5

Rye, New York (AP) – A five-year-old boy took his baby sister for a 1½-mile ride in his parents' station wagon yesterday after driving the car out of the family garage and into morning rush-hour traffic, police said.

"He was doing a pretty good job of it," said an incredulous Officer Robert Vogel. The policeman stopped the Buick and its 3ft-tall driver after a bus driver reported them. "The car immediately pulled over and didn't even hit the curb," said the policeman. The little boy stepped out of the vehicle and told police: "I don't know how to drive."

Jet mystery deepens

Tokyo – The mystery of the identity of two suspects, pictured below, in the disappearance of Korean Air Lines Flight 858 deepened last night when copies of the man's fingerprints received from Bahrain failed to match Japanese records (David Watts writes). Tokyo has now sent three investigators to work with their Bahraini and Korean counterparts on the case. The Boeing 707 disappeared last Sunday with 115 on board. There is speculation that it may have come down at sea or in impenetrable Burmese jungle.

The National Police Agency had suspected that the man who committed suicide after being apprehended in Bahrain might have been either Mr Akira Miyamoto or Mr Kenzo Kozumi, alleged members of a North Korean spy ring. The woman aged 27, travelling under the name of Miss Mayumi Miyamoto, is now said to be conscious in hospital in Bahrain, but has not answered questions about her identity.

Thatcher backs off from clash with Chirac on hostages

From Richard Owen, Copenhagen

Mrs Thatcher yesterday backed down from a confrontation with M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, over allegations of a French deal to obtain the release of French hostages in Lebanon.

British officials said that despite her angry reaction earlier this week and her statement in the Commons that the French hostage question was "bound to come up" at the Copenhagen summit, Mrs Thatcher had not planned to raise the issue.

But at a lunch given for European Economic Community leaders yesterday by the Queen of Denmark at Amalienborg Palace, diplomats said that M Chirac had approached Mrs Thatcher over pre-lunch drinks and raised the hostage question himself.

M Chirac, apparently angry over British press reports, volunteered an explanation to Mrs Thatcher of French behaviour and gave her an assurance that there had been no ransom and no sale of arms to Iran.

Mrs Thatcher accepted the assurances and told M Chirac that she "very much appreciated" French co-operation with Britain in dealing with terrorism. This was an apparent reference to the recent French interception of a vessel carrying a cache of arms for the IRA.

She said that she would not comment on what was a matter for the French Government.

Jerusalem – An Israeli Foreign Ministry official has accused EEC countries of colonialism and blackmail for blocking a deal allowing Israeli agricultural exports into the Community until Israel lets Palestinians in the occupied territories export directly to the EEC (Ian Murray writes). The issue will be raised in Brussels on Monday.

British officials had earlier said that Mrs Thatcher remained to be convinced that French actions over the hostage question squared with the repeated undertaking by EEC leaders not to have dealings with terrorists or their sponsors.

The EEC leaders later turned to the world financial situation and the "other summit" in Washington next week.

Over dinner at the Christiansborg Palace, the seat of the Danish Parliament, the leaders discussed the imminent meeting between Mr Mikhail Gorbachov and President Reagan. Mrs Thatcher will meet the Soviet leader at Brize Norton air base immediately after the EEC summit.

The superpower summit has to some extent overshadowed the EEC's own deliberations.

But Denmark, currently in the EEC chair, said the prospect of superpower co-operation on great issues made it all the more imperative for the Community to show that it could put its house in order on the relatively "minor" matter of the budget.

EEC officials said that the reform of agriculture, with "immense implications" for world farm trade and the fight against protectionism, would in the long run prove at least as important to European citizens as the removal of Euro-missiles.

Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, discussing the agenda before the start of the European Economic Community summit meeting in Copenhagen yesterday.

Run-up to the Washington superpower summit

Brize Norton to be rehearsal for Soviet leader

By Andrew McEwen and Michael Evans

If Mr Mikhail Gorbachov had wanted to pay Mrs Thatcher a compliment he could have thought of nothing better than to drop in for lunch on his way to see President Reagan.

But the Soviet leader's decision to break his journey in Britain is not so much a statement of mutual admiration as of political reality. The Prime Minister's increased stature on the world stage has changed the interplay between East and West, creating a triangle with a stronger European voice.

For two hours on Monday morning she will have an opportunity, unshared by any other European leader, to present her perspective on issues he is to discuss with Mr Reagan. The talks will be conducted in the officers' mess at RAF Brize Norton, near Swindon, while his aircraft is prepared for the second leg of the journey.

Mr Gennady Gerasimov, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman, has aptly described it as both a refuelling stop and an opportunity for a fuelling of ideas.

If a *troika* is emerging, it is because the three parties see it as being in their interests. Mr Gorbachov's interest lies partly in Mrs Thatcher's proven ability to change President Reagan's mind – notably on priorities for arms control. While it worked against him immediately after the Reykjavik superpower summit of October 1986, he probably hopes it could be harnessed in his favour on what he sees as the top issue: Star Wars.

Moscow is well aware of barely-concealed divisions within the Western Alliance on this subject. While avoiding criticism of the President's enthusiasm for the Strategic Defence Initiative, Mrs Thatcher has emphasized the need for the superpowers to be able to predict each other's intentions, with an agreed timetable for anti-ballistic missile research. Mr Gorbachov probably sees her as a moderating force who could play a useful future role in finding an SDI compromise.

There is also an important human dimension to the Brize Norton encounter. It offers Mr Gorbachov an opportunity to prepare himself for Washington in the company of a sparring partner whom he likes and respects.

What then will she say to him? The subjects uppermost in her mind fall under three broad headings, but pressure on time may force her to concentrate on the first:

HUMAN RIGHTS

Her top priority will be to get across the linkage in the Western mind between human rights and arms control. Within the Reagan-Gorbachov-Thatcher *troika*, this is a subject on which the two Western leaders' views are identical.

She is expected to say that the Soviet performance on human rights is the litmus test by which the West will assess whether it can confidently move forward from a limited first step (the Intermediate Nuclear Forces treaty) to substantial cuts.

As long as Soviet Jews are prevented from leaving and intellectuals are persecuted, the West will believe that there has been no real change in wider Soviet policies. Britain expects the Soviet Union to live up to the commitments it undertook as a signatory of the 1975 Helsinki Agreement and subsequent follow-ups.

Mr Gorbachov's defence will be based on self-justification and on attack. He will point to real, if limited, human rights progress made under the *glasnost* reforms and to an increase in the number of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate. He will probably defend his need to prevent people who have had access to state secrets from leaving.

ARMS CONTROL

The military surroundings will serve as an appropriate reminder to Mr Gorbachov of the influence Britain, and in particular Mrs Thatcher, have had on Nato policy in the past few years.

Mr Gorbachov is well aware of Mrs Thatcher's views on arms control and the need to maintain Britain's nuclear deterrent. But there are key points of interest:

Trident and strategic weapons. Mr Gorbachov has vacillated over Britain's deterrent. Before January, 1986, he was insisting that the British and French nuclear systems should be included in an intermediate-range (INF) missile deal. He backed away from this on January 15 last year when he declared he was ready to reach a separate INF agreement, no longer linked to Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (Start).

Mrs Thatcher has made repeated statements that Britain's Polaris missile deterrent and its future replacement, the Trident D5 system, could not be considered for inclusion in any arms control negotiations until the superpowers had reduced their arsenals by a "substantial" amount. She has always insisted that Trident could not be included in the current proposal for cutting strategic arms by 50 per cent.

Privately Mr Gorbachov has let Mrs Thatcher know that he understands that position and is not intending to make it an issue in the Washington summit. On Thursday Mr Gerasimov underlined this understanding when he stated that the British and French deterrents would not "present an impediment to the successful conclusion of a Start treaty".

Star Wars and the ABM treaty. Mrs Thatcher played an important role in defining the broad principles governing Star Wars research in the "four points" agreed with President Reagan at Camp David in December, 1984. They stated that Nato was not aiming for superiority over the Warsaw Pact, that SDI-related deployment would be a matter for negotiation with the Russians, that the research was intended to enhance not undermine deterrence, and that both sides should aim to reduce its offensive weapons.

The four points have remained intact in terms of general principles, although there has been a divergence of views between Washington and London on the correct interpretation – narrow or broad – of the ABM treaty.

Chemical weapons. The British Government has been in the forefront of initiatives to try to overcome the verification obstacles standing in the way of a global ban on the production and storage of chemical weapons. On July 15 last year, the Government presented a compromise proposal on challenge inspection to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. That would permit a challenged state to refuse on-site inspection provided it gave alternative means of satisfying the challenger. The Russians, and more recently the Americans, have shown enthusiasm for this suggestion.

Conventional forces. Mrs Thatcher will tell Mr Gorbachov that after an agreement between the superpowers to cut strategic missiles by 50 per cent, there should be no further reduction in nuclear weapons until the Soviet Union has agreed to resolve the massive imbalance in conventional forces. This includes the short-range nuclear tactical battlefield weapons not covered by the INF treaty.

Nato estimates that the Soviet Union is adding tanks at a rate of eight per day, fighter aircraft at two per day, pieces of artillery at six per day and warships at one per month.

Mrs Thatcher may tell Mr Gorbachov that more openness (*glasnost*) on the Soviet side about their real troop levels in Central Europe might help to achieve agreement on manpower reductions.

REGIONAL ISSUES

Afghanistan is the most urgent and less unpromising issue on Mrs Thatcher's regional issues agenda. For a year Mr Gorbachov has been dropping loud hints that he will withdraw Soviet troops once a deal is struck which leaves behind a well-disposed non-aligned government. Mrs Thatcher and President Reagan will tell him that a Soviet withdrawal would vastly enhance East-West relations.

Mr Gorbachov is likely to complain that he would have pulled out already if he had not been prevented by Western interference.

But Mrs Thatcher will point out that formulas for national reconciliation proposed by Dr Najibullah, the Soviet-supported Afghan head of state, have failed to convince the Mujahidin.

On the Gulf, Mrs Thatcher will continue urging Mr Gorbachov to agree to a United Nations Security Council resolution imposing an arms embargo against either party in the Iran-Iraq war if it fails to respect a UN-sponsored ceasefire. Moscow surprised the West by making possible Resolution 598, passed on July 20, which called for a ceasefire,

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Right tackles spread of 'Gorby fever'

Washington View

By Michael Binyon

Before Gorby fever has a chance to infect America, conservatives have launched an unprecedented campaign to immunize the population. Barely a day passes without columnists administering massive doses of hardline realism to overpower the virus of foolish trust and wishful thinking.

Mr Gorbachov, they say, may look convincing on television, may sound reasonable on arms control, may promise progress on human rights and Afghanistan.

"But if you listen to his words rather than look at his suit, you'll find that his values are not different from, say, Andropov's or Brezhnev's," Charles Krauthammer wrote in *The Washington Post*. William Safire in *The New York Times* quickly wrote off the Soviet leader's television performance as an "exhibition of obsequious arrogance, cunning manipulation, evasive bullying and outright dishonesty".

Appearances, they admit, suggested otherwise – "no horns, no threats, no shoes on the table. Gorbachov was cordial, quick to smile, human. A communist with a human face," Mr Krauthammer said. But America had to beware. "Unfortunately, this is not the brand of communism he practises."

The message has been drummed around the country by everyone from the President downwards: do not trust this man.

Mr Reagan insisted he had not changed his view of the "evil empire." He would never sign a treaty simply on trust, he told television viewers, repeating for the umpteenth time his favourite Russian tag, *"doveryai no proveryai"* (trust but verify).

The White House, brusquely brushing away diplomatic courtesy, insisted the summit was not a meeting of old friends, but a meeting of old enemies.

Journalists, smarting under accusations that they were part of a liberal media plot, were determined to display their toughness. The former editor of *The New York Times* reminded readers that Russia was still an unstable "dictatorship perched on top of police control and commanding a mighty military machine".

Tom Brokow of NBC, who achieved the hat-trick in one week by interviewing Mr Gorbachov, all 12 presidential candidates and Mr Reagan, responded to criticism that he was too soft on Gorby by declaring that America had learned first-hand that Mr Gorbachov had "a very distorted view" about human rights, and did not understand the depth of feeling in his own country about the need to live in dignity.

Not to be outdone, Dan Rather of CBS, curtly passed over for the Kremlin interview, told Mr Reagan that Mr Gorbachov had 115,000 troops in Afghanistan "committing genocide almost daily".

But the virus of good feeling has already escaped. The latest polls show that twice as many Americans now rate Mr Gorbachov favourably as have negative opinions, and the Soviet leader's popularity is only 4 per cent lower than Mr Reagan's. He is more popular in the US than any Soviet leader since Stalin was thought of as cosy "Uncle Joe" during the Second World War.

The button and T-shirt industries are already at work. The culture squad is serving up a Russian menu at Washington's museums and galleries.

The Soviet Embassy is playing host to an increasingly glittering array of big names in the business and academic world. There are poetry readings by Russian poets, conferences on Soviet life and articles galore in the popular papers about Raisa and her fashionable clothes.

In an age where popular perception is political reality, this is a significant victory for the Russians. It gives the Soviet image-makers a huge head start.

For although the Gorbachov interview was a poor third in the network ratings, many who watched agreed with one television critic who said: "You couldn't help but like him." By comparison, a tactful silence has been the only response to Mr Reagan's rambling and ungrammatical performance three days later.

Mr Kranthammer proposes a drastic alternative in future: no more summits in the US. In that way the media would not be tempted by the good theatre of a Russian in the White House rose garden, and the US side, freed from the inhibitions of courtesy to a guest, could ask rougher questions, indulge in rhetorical rebukes and play the summit PR game to win.Summits, he said, should be in neutral places, "preferably far away and with nasty climates".

Ligachov says he is on Gorbachov wavelength

By Mary Dejevsky

Mr Yegor Ligachov, the man second in the Kremlin hierarchy, has categorically denied Western reports of tension between himself and the Soviet leader, Mr Mikhail Gorbachov, and contested the view that he is a hardline opponent of liberalization in the Soviet Union.

Mr Ligachov, who is in Paris to attend the French Communist Party Congress, was answering questions from two *Le Monde* journalists, including a French Kremlin-watcher, M Michel Tatu.

In the interview, published yesterday, Mr Ligachov said he was well aware of what had been written about him in the West and wished to make it clear that he and Mr Gorbachov worked together "very amicably". He said: "There is no difference of opinion between Gorbachov and Ligachov. They are on the same wavelength." Speculation about possible rivalry between the two has grown during the past year because of Mr Ligachov's apparent reluctance to join in criticism of Stalin and his censure of two Soviet publications, the youth journal *Ogonyok* and *Moscow News*, which have been the most daring in challenging official versions of Soviet history.

In the past month, the removal of the reform-minded Mr Boris Yeltsin as leader of the Moscow City Communist Party was seen by some as the result of an anti-reform backlash led by Mr Ligachov. The Soviet number two insisted that he had been among those who had approved Mr Yeltsin's appointment in the first place but that, unfortunately, Mr Yeltsin had proved unequal to the job.

He went out of his way to insist that the leadership had been united, both on this and on the subject of how far to pursue *glasnost*. He denied that he was in favour of *perestroika* (reconstruction) but against *glasnost*. It was "nonsense", he said, to be for one and against the other.

صورة عن الأصل

South Korean election campaign

Kim Dae Jung warns poll fraud will lead to unrest

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

South Korea's turbulent presidential election campaign is heating up with allegations of widespread bribery and corruption, and warnings of civil disorder if the candidate of the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP) is declared the winner.

A prominent source of the accusations is Mr Kim Dae Jung, one of two leading opposition contenders, who says the DJP is rigging the election to ensure victory for Mr Roh Tae Woo, the chosen candidate of President Chun.

Mr Kim told foreign correspondents yesterday that a fraudulent win by Mr Roh would precipitate a public outcry that would threaten the country's political and economic stability, as well as the Olympic Games due to be held in Seoul next September.

"I think Roh and Chun are making a serious mistake: they do not appreciate the disaster approaching them," he said. "If Roh is elected through a fair ballot, I will certainly instruct the students, workers and farmers who support me to accept the result. However, I do not see how this situation could arise. The elections are not being conducted fairly even now."

Mr Kim alleged that the Government's intelligence agencies were conducting a smear campaign against him and that the media was being manipulated to portray him as a glum-faced loser.

He also said provincial officials had been dissuaded from joining his Party for Peace and Democracy (PPD) by threats of tax investigations and the dismissal of relatives from government employment. The distribution of money and gifts such as wrist watches, blankets and bags of sugar, notably during the recent *Chusok* (Korean Thanksgiving Day), was further evidence of what he asserted were unfair and illegal practices by the DJP.

In addition, he said, the ruling party was spending far more than the statutory limit of 13.9 billion won (about £10 million) allowed to each candidate, while electoral regulations were inhibiting contributions to the opposition parties.

Mr Kim specifically accused four ministers — those of home affairs, defence, justice, and information and culture — of improper conduct.

Mr Roh, the former general who persuaded President Chun to bow to public pressure for democratic reforms last summer, firmly rejects the charges as slanderous propaganda. Certainly he will be aware that in the present climate, any victory tainted by suspicions of fraud would probably be Pyrrhic.

DJP officials have countered with similar allegations against the opposition, notably of inciting violence at Mr Roh's rallies.

The election management committee insists that its provisions, including all-party supervision of the ballot counting, will ensure a fair election on December 16.

A senior official of the election committee indicated yesterday that it would take no action on the allegations until after polling.

"There have been many shameful accusations from both sides of unfair election practices," he said. "The committee has not yet decided if these charges are valid. After the election, it will gather all the accusations and evidence and decide whether legal proceedings are justified." The official was evasive on whether a judicial ruling on improper conduct during the campaign would invalidate the result.

When pressed, he told reporters: "If a successful candidate refuses to provide details of an alleged infringement, he will be dealt with according to the law."

Ethiopia famine threat

Tigréans put faith in wall of mud

From Paul Vallely, Mekele

The dimensions of the dam at Felege Hiweth north-west of Mekele, the capital of Tigré where 30,000 people perished during the last Ethiopian famine, are not impressive. It is only 30 ft high and 1,300 ft long. But its grandeur lies in the fact that it is being built almost entirely by hand.

The scene recalls Pharaonic Egypt, with nearly 2,000 peasants labouring on the long mound yesterday. Men pushed barrows full of soil to the top of the slope. Women staggered at their side carrying huge pots of water strapped to their backs. The procedure was repeated, simultaneously, in scores of groups all along the dam.

Those who were not so strong — the elderly, sick and pregnant — fetched small amounts of soil in sheets of cloth. Some worked in couples, carrying either end of the sagging sheet, others worked in long lines, holding an end of cloth in each hand.

At the top, others mixed the water and soil and trod it into place. "It will set like cement," said Mr Ato Habtu, head of the local branch of the Goverment's Relief and Rehabilitation Commission. All around him people moved with hurried industry.

There has been an almost total crop failure around Mekele, and indeed throughout the province. In many places the situation is worse than it was during the last famine in 1984. Rains fell early, in May, before any land had been prepared. In July for the first time in the town's history, the locals say, there was no rain at all. No crops were even planted.

Last month, when their harvests should have begun, the farmers from the neighbouring peasants' associations instead began work on the dam. Their hope is to collect the rain whenever it comes and irrigate 108 acres for growing maize.

"It is an amazing example of the perseverance and resilience of these people," said Bob Geldof when he visited the site. "This country is full of contradictory signs. The fact that the war between the Government and rebels blocks the supply of food six days out of seven means that this region is faced with disaster. By January, they will run out of food entirely. At the same time, there are tremendous signs of hope like this. It is more proof that the money people gave last time is working."

The dam is one of four under construction in the area. There are many more throughout the provinces of Tigré and Eritrea, including several financed by Band Aid. Those working on the dams are paid in food — the rate for the heavy labour is about 7 pounds of cereal a day. "It gives people dignity as well as food. Really this food is supposed to be given away but we prefer that it is exchanged for work to avoid people developing a hand-out mentality," said one aid worker.

Yesterday local officials had hijacked a bulldozer and road-grading machine sent to work on another project. But when the authorities reclaim them, the people will finish the dam as they began, with their bare hands.

Hopes grow for a Nicaraguan truce

From David Gollob, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Indirect ceasefire negotiations between the Nicaraguan Government and the Contra rebels entered their second and final day in this Caribbean city, amid rising expectations that a truce, to begin on Monday, would be announced.

"I am going to suggest it," said the Nicaraguan Archbishop, Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the mediator in the negotiations. "When God comes to the Earth, there should be a ceasefire."

The Cardinal was speaking late on Thursday night at the end of a two-hour negotiating session with members of the Contras' ceasefire commission. He promised to issue a communiqué later.

December 7 is the holiest day in the Nicaraguan religious calendar. Known as *La Purisima*, it celebrates the conception of Christ.

The Sandinistas have proposed a 30-day ceasefire beginning on December 5, and the Contras have proposed a six-week truce beginning on *La Purisima*. Both proposals would end fighting over the Christmas period for the first time in the six-year war.

Cardinal Obando met the Sandinista delegation, headed by the Deputy Foreign Minister, Señor Victor Hugo Tinoco, yesterday morning. The negotiations are taking place in the palace of the Dominican Archbishop.

In a press conference here on Thursday evening, Señor Tinoco said he remained optimistic about achieving a ceasefire, although he accused the Contras of trying to distort the framework of the Central American peace plan by insisting on political reforms as a precondition.

The peace plan, signed by the five Central American presidents last August, clearly states that political discussions need only be held with unarmed civilian opposition groups, Señor Tinoco said.

Prince Sihanouk, right, and Mr Hun Sen embracing each other after reaching agreement to initiate negotiations between all Cambodians involved in the guerrilla war in their country.

Cambodia regime ready to talk with Khmer Rouge

Fère en-Tardenois (Reuter) — Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the Cambodian resistance leader, and Mr Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Vietnamese-backed regime in Phnom Penh, signed a four-point agreement yesterday aimed at accelerating efforts to end the country's civil war.

The accord calls on the other two parties in Prince Sihanouk's tripartite guerrilla alliance to join negotiations to end nine years of warfare.

It said communist and non-communist factions — whether pro-Vietnamese, pro-Chinese, or pro-Western — must get together immediately to build a democratic and independent Cambodia.

This was the first signal from the Phnom Penh regime that it is ready to negotiate with the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, which was ousted by Vietnam in 1978 and blamed for hundreds of thousands of deaths. There has been no response, however, from the Khmer Rouge, which is the most powerful faction in the rebel coalition.

In an indication that the meeting marked a major breakthrough, the two sides said they would meet here again in January, three months earlier than originally scheduled.

Bangkok — Thailand denied yesterday that it was behind an abortive plot to infiltrate rebels into Vietnam to topple the Government, saying that if such a plot existed it would stem from Hanoi's "erroneous policies" (Reuter reports). On Wednesday a Vietnamese court jailed 18 people accused of planning an uprising.

In a joint statement they agreed that:

● The Cambodian conflict must be resolved politically.

● The problem must be settled by the Cambodian people through negotiations between all parties to the conflict to halt bloodshed and rebuild an independent, sovereign and non-aligned country.

● As soon as an agreement emerges between the parties, an international conference will be called to guarantee Cambodia's independence.

The statement said the two leaders would hold a third meeting in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang.

The agreement made no reference to any timetable for the withdrawal of Vietnam's estimated 140,000 troops backing the Hun Sen administration.

Prince Sihanouk, aged 65, said: "We have attained concrete results. The door is open, but there is still quite a way to go before reaching our goal. Together we will get there."

● **JAKARTA:** Indonesia welcomed the reported breakthrough, and Asian diplomats saw it as a first step towards a settlement (Reuter reports).

Dr Mochtar Kusumaatmadja, the Indonesian Foreign Minister and South-East Asia's main link in contacts with Vietnam, said the agreement had raised "great expectations."

Thais in tribute to loved monarch

From Neil Kelly Bangkok

Most Thais today will slaughter no animals, catch no fish or eat flesh of any kind. Some even will avoid alcohol, gambling, sex and places of entertainment. Thousands of men will have vasectomies, a larger number of people will give blood, and on Tuesday the first of 20,000 prisoners will be released from the country's jails by royal amnesty.

These are some of the gestures to mark the 60th birthday today of Thailand's much-loved monarch, King Bhumibol. Buddhists measure life in 12-year cycles, and the completion of five cycles is an auspicious occasion — especially for a Buddhist monarch. The Thais are celebrating another milestone, for the King will soon enjoy the longest reign in their history, surpassing that of his grandfather, King Chulalongkorn.

But while he ruled with absolute power, the present King has, since his coronation on May 5, 1950, faced 11 actual or attempted coups against elected, legal governments.

The Thais have not heeded the King's advice to avoid lavish expenditure on the birthday celebrations. Bangkok is ablaze with party lights and some of the most elaborate fireworks seen in any sky. King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of the Belgians, and King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain, as well the Princess Royal, have been here recently to wish the King a happy birthday. More royal visitors are due in the next few weeks, including the Prince and Princess of Wales.

For 17 years, the King has not left Thailand — but he has visited every one of the country's 73 provinces, the first monarch to do so. He appears happiest on those tours when his deep interest in rural development and improving the lives of his subjects is apparent.

Country people still follow the old custom of prostrating themselves at his feet. That gesture was officially declared "unnecessary" no less than a century ago, but the Thais believe that this King deserves that much of their respect. "That's all we have to give him," they say.

Paris police chilled as 'Monster' details his 21 murders

Paulin: preyed on elderly women in Montmartre.

Paris (Reuter) — A cold-blooded killer dubbed, The Monster of Montmartre, has entered French murder mythology with chilling confessions of how he tortured and strangled 21 old women to pay for a seedy high-life in Paris.

For three years, from the 1984 killing of 83-year-old Anna Barbier-Ponthus in the Rue Saulnier, he preyed on the elderly female population of central Paris while police watched in horror as the toll of "old lady" murders rose.

It had reached 38 by the morning of December 1, when an intuitive policeman, Inspector Francis Jacob, noticed a tall, dark-skinned young man with an earring and bleached, cropped hair. Inspector Jacob questioned Thierry Paulin, a 24-year-old native of the French Caribbean island of Martinique and a self-styled "star" of third-rate cabaret. He was in reality a drug addict turned mass murderer.

He would tie up his victims and torture them with knives and burning cigarettes, terrifying them into revealing where their savings or jewels were hidden. A few had their throats cut.

"I only tackled the weakest of them," Paulin later told stunned detectives who discovered that his fingerprints matched those of the murderer. "I let them go if they didn't look too vulnerable," police quoted him as saying. Paulin confessed to seven of the murders — then 13 — then 21.

He implicated a 23-year-old friend, Jean-Thierry Mathurin, from French Guyana, also a drug-addict, who told police that he had helped Paulin to kill seven old women. The two men were arrested on Wednesday and charged with murder. Their interrogation continues. Police said Paulin, the dominant member of the pair, also had admitted 20 assaults on aged women, and added there could be further confessions.

"Killing old people was their livelihood," one detective said. "Paulin can't even remember the order in which he committed the crimes." Paulin calmly told how he frequented markets and shops, often among the warren of streets beneath Montmartre's Sacré Coeur church, watching elderly women shopping.

Genevieve Germond, aged 73, was his last victim. "I followed Madame Germond from the market where she was shopping. She bought some bread, a little meat," he told police.

Once the door was unlocked, the muscular Paulin would pounce, pushing the feeble old women inside their apartments. Then he killed them.

Some, like Germond, were strangled, some smothered with mattresses.

Paulin's name has already entered France's criminal gallery of horrors, alongside the likes of Henri Desiré Landru, guillotined in 1922 for luring 10 young women to a grisly death with promises of marriage.

Travel ban on kidnap negotiator

Santiago — An Argentine priest, who negotiated the freedom of a Chilean army officer kidnapped by guerrillas, has been prevented from leaving Chile (Lake Sagiaris writes).

Father Alfredo Soiza-Piñeyro, who is resident here, said that the ban surprised him. The director of Chile's International Police had given him the safe conduct pass that all foreigners require to leave the country.

13 die in crash

Nairobi (Reuter) — A small plane flying from Zaire to Kenya crashed in the central African state of Rwanda, killing all 13 on board, including 11 Americans, the US Embassy here said.

March veto

Fatehgarh Sahib (Reuter) — Indian police banned 2,000 Sikhs from marching to Delhi to press demands for political concessions in the northern state of Punjab.

Miners killed

Johannesburg (Reuter) — Three black South African miners were killed in a colliery rockfall near Witbank in the eastern Transvaal.

Aids victim

São Paulo (Reuter) — Darcy Penteado, aged 61, a leading Brazilian artist and homosexual rights activist, has died of Aids, friends said.

Berlin escape

West Berlin (Reuter) — An East German man, aged 18, used a ladder to clamber over the Berlin Wall to the West.

Mean streets of Naples

Crime pays in a decadent city

From Roger Boyes, Naples

Strolling through Naples, hands firmly parked in pockets, and a football ricochets from the wall on to your chest. "Hey, watch it," you shout like Policeman Plod. The urchins laugh, and disappear. In that instant you discover you have been robbed of £100.

To stay sane it is best to regard this as a kind of Neapolitan visitors' tax, a form of north-south redistribution. In search of sympathy you go to the local police office. The reception clerk is carefully reading the sports pages while three telephones ring at once. "Sir," he explains after a while, "this is Naples. You would be advised to leave your money at home." Later, at home, a hotel room, you discover that another £200 has evaporated. A case perhaps of double taxation.

It is, of course, a cliché to be robbed in Naples — did not Boccaccio call the place a "city of misfortune"? — and it would be far more interesting, sociologically speaking, to be mugged in Milan. Still, there it is. Naples is a city of street gangs, nifty 14- and 15-year-olds run by 25-year-old Fagins. Child prostitution is a problem — Signora Melita Cavallo, a magistrate, says it accounts for 10 per cent of prostitution cases, and those are just the slow-witted girls, the ones that are caught. The pimps, the loan sharks, the flotsam of a Nato port could well provide a task worthy of Brecht's *Threepenny Opera*.

Naples is the place to come to buy a baby: some lawyers arrange for fecund Neapolitan mothers to produce on demand and then sell to childless north Europeans. It is not all juvenile crime: there is senile delinquency, too. For a modest fee pensioners can hire invalid carriages — the kind that are shaped like cigars and run on small engines — and thus lend credibility to their street begging or secure prime positions at football matches.

Naples is decadent, its fabled beauty eroded by decades, if not centuries, of neglect. Nowadays the city has scarred housing estates, slapped up cheaply and without thought, to accommodate hundreds of thousands of migrants from the countryside. They have walls as thin as cardboard, and you have to walk a mile before finding a shop. Already rootless, these new Neapolitans have been hit hard by unemployment, the highest in Italy.

The children of the first generation are the ones who take to drugs, buying and selling. The entrenched Naples families have their support systems and their own illegal or quasi-legal concerns to keep them going — an unregistered sewing business, for example.

Infant mortality is high, living conditions for most inhabitants crowded and unhealthy. The fact that this has been the condition of Naples since Bourbon times, that some of the slums — despite frenzied attempts to build new ones — are among the oldest in Europe, that the city has always been vulnerable to epidemics, does not make it any easier.

The most chaotic aspect of Neapolitan life is housing, and so it is with a certain inevitability that the construction industry attracts the most corruption. It is broadly true that Neapolitan organized crime, represented by the Camorra, has many fingers in the local building industry. But that is only part of the story. Neapolitans were not unduly surprised when Carabinieri officers raided the villa outside Naples of Signor Armando De Rosa, a regional administrator with rather good connections. His political patrons are said by local journalists to be the Gava family, a Christian Democrat dynasty that effectively runs Neapolitan political life.

Florence — Italian police burst into a flat at the seaside resort of Misano Adriatico yesterday and freed Signora Cristina Bessi, aged 33, the daughter of a textile industrialist, who was kidnapped near here on November 11 (Reuter reports). Two armed men were arrested, police said. She was in good health.

However, Signor De Rosa's immunity is clearly limited. The Carabinieri have been tapping phones and following people throughout the country to try to track down a big building corruption racket with its hub in Naples. Just over a week ago they caught a representative from a Paduan building company delivering an envelope (known as a *bustarella*) containing £40,000 to Signor De Rosa's home. Signor De Rosa's job included handing out contracts for building work, housing and sewage construction.

The web appears to be wide. The investigators have already interrogated the president of Naples football club, Signor Corrado Ferlaino, who, lawyers say, has admitted that his building company regularly received contracts to construct water piping. In return he felt obliged to offer small presents to politicians. Others have now been arrested.

Magistrates throughout Italy have been picking up politicians on similar charges, the biggest fish being the former Social Democrat Minister of Public Works, Signor Franco Nicolazzi. He is accused of giving to friends contracts to build 13 high security prisons — known as "golden jails" because of the high-value contracts. Both Signor Nicolazzi and Signor De Rosa deny wrongdoing.

A recent university study showed that politicians involved in construction work could expect 10 per cent commission on big building contracts. The fees often went into local party funds rather than towards personal enrichment. Dr Franco Cazzola, a political economist at the University of Catania, has just completed an analysis of thousands of Italian political corruption cases between 1870 and 1985. A key result: corruption is spreading from south to north, flourishing especially in areas of misgovernment.

One of the characters invented by the Sicilian novelist Leonardo Sciascia described the phenomenon. "Scientists say that the palm tree line, that is the climate suitable to the growth of the palm, is moving north, 500 metres every year ... it's rising like mercury in a thermometer, the palm tree line, scandal line, rising up throughout Italy and already past Rome."

And so it is that traits once regarded as specifically Neapolitan, or Sicilian, are moving relentlessly up the country, sucking in politicians from all parties. The palm tree line advances apace: but Naples will always have a special place in the history of Italian corruption.

THE TIMES
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هكذا من الأصل

SPORTING DIARY

Simon Barnes

Once upon a time

The various England Test cricket goat teams, or teams of the disaster-prone and the no-hopers, have inspired my colleague Marcus Williams into a frenzy of research. He has produced what he considers the ultimate England goat team: 11 men, each of whom has played first class cricket, and that for a county, once only. Not one of these men batted, not one of them bowled, and not one of them — and we have a choice of two wicketkeepers — even took a catch. Here is the line-up: it is in alphabetical order, since each player has an identical batting and bowling average. 1. **J. Coulthurst** (Lancashire 1919); 2. **T.S. Fox** (Middlesex 1905); 3. **J.T. Griffiths** (Nottinghamsire 1891); *4. **T.J. Hearne** (Middlesex 1908); 5. **F.J. Hyland** (Hampshire 1924); 6. **H. Longland** (Northamptonshire 1907); 7. **J.L. Matthews** (Gloucestershire 1872); 8. **W.E. Mirehouse** (Gloucestershire 1872, in the same match as Matthews); †9. **R.J. Richards** (Essex 1970); 10. **A.J. Ricketts** (Somerset 1936); 11. **W.R. Thomas** (Somerset 1928). Hearne is made captain because not only did he fail to bat or bowl but he didn't field either. Twelfth man is D. Adams, who played one match for Surrey against London County, and took one wicket — that of W.G. Grace.

Consolation

Roger Smee, chairman of Reading Football Club, attended a dinner given by the 100 Property Club, a bunch of business moguls, at which a raffle was held to raise cash for handicapped children. And he had the audacity, in donating the prizes, to bring that music hall chestnut to life: yes, first prize a season ticket to Reading; second prize *two* season tickets to Reading.

● Quote of the Week: From Chris Penny, the American Boat Race rebel who is now president of Oxford University Boat Club: "It seems that the lunatic is now in charge of the asylum." He added, of those who fear for the club's future in his hands: "They've got nothing to worry about from me. I want to win the Boat Race, and they want to win the Boat Race. They may not like me, but they'll work with me. In the end they may find they like me."

Double score

April 3, 1988, is the centenary of the birth of the late Sir Neville Cardus, something that would have surprised him. He always thought he was born on April 2, 1889, but his birth certificate says not. To mark the occasion, Sir Yehudi Menuhin and John Arlott want to raise money to buy two copies of a bronze head of Cardus sculpted by Nigel Boonham; one would be given to Lord's and the other to the Hallé Concerts Society in Manchester, Cardus being equally at ease writing about music as cricket.

● Perhaps more than any other nation, America worships sport. But a national survey shows that 40 per cent of boys and 70 per cent of girls cannot do more than one pull-up. Ah yes — but *watching* sport is the thing.

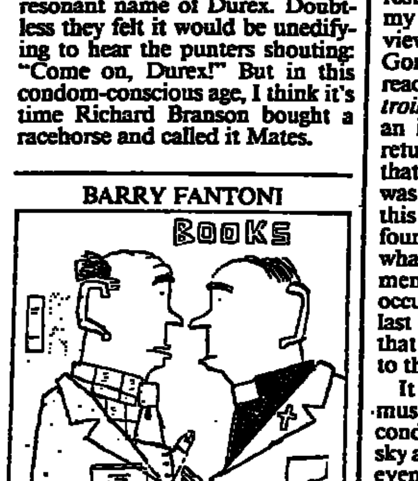
Screened off

One of the great joys of being secretary of the MCC has always been the rather nifty pad that goes with the job: a house around the corner from Lord's in Elm Tree Crescent. But when Jack Bailey left after that terrible MCC row, the new secretary, Colonel John Stephenson, did not move in. First Bailey stayed in the house until various problems were cleared up — and now it is on the market. For a 35-year lease on this des res, offers from £460,000 are being sought. The new sec's new permanent res is undecided — "various options are being considered". I suggest one of those flats whose view of the ground was lost with the building of the new Mound Stand.

Conceivable

I was recently reminded of the time the Jockey Club refused permission to the London Rubber Company to give a horse the resonant name of Durex. Doubtless they felt it would be unedifying to hear the punters shouting: "Come on, Durex!" But in this condom-conscious age, I think it's time Richard Branson bought a racehorse and called it Mates.

BARRY FANTONI



'Crockford's? I think you'll find it under whodunnits'

White hot for the market

by Ian MacGregor

The announcement that British Steel is to be privatized seems to me to be the logical outcome of the long campaign to return that industry to a normal place in the industrial scene in the UK.

Ever since the mid-1970s, when the long and continuous growth of the world economy following the Second World War came to an end, it has been clear to government that the industry would have to be rationalized. As steel is a barometer of the growth of industry and its infrastructure it is not surprising that the markets for steel in Europe started a dramatic decline at this time. This situation was made worse by other crucial long-term factors, especially the loss of traditional markets and major competition from Japan.

Rationalization began under Sir Charles Villiers, the chairman of British Steel 1976-80. It fell to him to reduce surplus capacity and bring the industry closer in line with the realities of the contracting British market. His task was made more difficult both by the inflation of the 1970s, as manufacturing became less and less competitive and exports declined, and by the unrealistic political climate.

In addition the change in the world shipbuilding industry as welded ships took over and new construction methods were adopted in many countries led to a dramatic decline in British shipbuilding. All these factors saw the steel industry in the late 1970s in a very disorganized state.

The growing conflict between the need to rationalize the industry and the desire of the unions to maintain the status quo irrespective of the commercial realities culminated in a long work stoppage in the winter of 1979-80.

Subsequently, with the political will to attempt to correct the imbalances, the company embarked on a course of sound rationalization which brought productive capacity in line with available markets. Efforts to improve productivity at the factory level were reasonably successful and were assisted by an enlightened and fairly generous programme of financial support for the heavy redundancies that became essential. Aided by incentives British Steel's productivity started to move closer to that of its European counterparts, though still substantially behind the quite outstanding performance of the Japanese industry.

During the decade we have seen a continuation of the efforts by the management to achieve greater efficiency and economy and through improved productivity obtain costs that keep the industry in a reasonable competitive posture against its European counterparts. This steady improvement has ultimately brought the company out of the red, to break even, and now to a respectable profitability.

The present profitability is aided, of course, by the decline in the dollar and the relative strength of the German mark against the pound. Thus the raw materials which the steel industry buys in the world market denominated in dollars has substantially helped profitability. Likewise, the strengthening of the mark has reduced the competitive pressure from the German producers who still have substantial over-capacity and who have yet to face up to the necessary rationalization.

For the future the high morale of the workforce and their legitimate and genuine pride in their accomplishments together with the management is a basis for optimism. Of course it will have to continue its efforts to improve its performance in quality and productivity and in service to its customers, all of which have been dramatically improved during this decade.

The future depends on the industry's ability to keep up this momentum and to continue its improvement. I believe it can be done and look forward to seeing a successful return of this essential industry to the private sector.

Sir Ian MacGregor was chairman and chief executive of the British Steel Corporation 1980-83.

Yehudi Menuhin records how glasnost allowed him an emotional return to the land of his parents, and the lessons he found there for the West

An old Russian melody

A bouquet for Menuhin after a Moscow rehearsal with the Ministry of Culture orchestra

I have just returned from my first visit to the Soviet Union since 1971, and my heart and mind are so full of this my fourth visit to that extraordinary country where my parents were born that I feel impelled to write down my impressions before their vivid impact might fade.

My first visit in 1945 when I played with their greatest violinist, David Oistrakh, was a euphoric one — the terrible war barely over, so that the official luncheon given by the then US Ambassador, Averell Harriman, for myself and David together with Dmitri Shostakovich was more of a meeting of human beings sharing a vast relief, both countries full of an undefined or unrevealed hope.

My second, in 1962, took me to Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, Minsk, Odessa, Lvov and Kishinev, and I left with an impression of intractable vastness, of the enormous weight of a country whose people for the most part spent half the year under snow and much of the rest under mud, whose total lack of freedom and initiative arose from centuries of powerlessness and suppression and whose daily needs and the harsh condition of their lives filled their entire outlook.

In 1971, coming as the president of the International Music Council of Unesco, entertained with the unquenchable hospitality native to Russians, it was part of my duty to deliver a speech in the beautiful Hall of Columns in Moscow sharing a platform with several members of the Politburo. I had experienced many a joust with those representatives labelled as belonging to the "Iron Curtain" countries. Among these was the USSR's representative to the international council of whom I was quixotically rather fond, and, once our acrid arguments at the meetings were over, we would enjoy each other's company as good friends.

My speech on that occasion deliberately referred among other topics to the irrefutable fact of human rights, and I well remember the frost that dropped like a sudden winter when I mentioned the name Solzhenitsyn as among one of the many great men of Russia past and present. I had committed a sin as great as that of any betrayer of the Faith of the Church, and for that misdemeanour my speech, to be printed on the front page of *Pravda*, was replaced by a detailed report on the statistics of the Cold-Rolled and Brass Copper Corporation.

For 16 years I was not forgiven as was proven when, three years ago, I asked to be allowed to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of my closest friend, David Oistrakh, and was refused.

Happening to be playing in the Edinburgh Festival this August, I was approached by the Deputy Minister of Culture, Vladimir I. Kazenin, and invited to return "any time I wished". With extraordinary speed he and his chief, Vasily G. Zakharov, arranged my visit in the one space I had actually reserved for breathing — three weeks in November. In truth, abandoning that intended rest filled my lungs with more air, my mind with more fascinating views of the USSR under Gorbachov and of the Russians' reactions to *glasnost* and *perestroika* while arousing in my heart an ineluctable feeling that I was returning to my parental heritage, that what was Russian within me was suddenly reclaiming me. All this exercised my mind profoundly, driving me to analyse what changes, what developments, what stirrings had really occurred in those 16 years since last I'd been there, and what it was that had drawn me so much closer to this problematic country.

It was not alone the glorious music-making with their great conductor Gennady Rozhdestvensky and his Moscow orchestra, nor even the unforgettable discovery of a music of like minds in the recitals I gave with the inimitable Viktoria Postnikova, one of the most sensitively wonderful pianists it has ever been my fortune to play with, nor even the privilege of conducting the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra, to which I brought Elgar's *Cockaigne* Overture, nor the joy and pride I felt from my son Jeremy's Beethoven First Piano Concerto, not even the thrill of conducting Tchaikovsky's *Pathétique* Symphony in the very hall in which the composer himself had first presented it.

Not even among the mobs of delightful young music students queueing in the snow fighting to get into the rehearsals (all of which Gennady and I made open to them) bearing little bunches of flowers which must have cost them many a meal, nor during my master class at the Leningrad Conservatoire the overwhelming eagerness, interest, curiosity and desire to learn of the pupils, nor finally and at long last the concert played in Oistrakh's memory together with his son Igor and grandson Valery in the Bach Triple Violin Concerto. It was a multiple factor, underlying and overlaying all this ebullience and joy.

Some element in it all made me withdraw my mind from the stale propaganda of the "young Russians want jeans and jazz" type to the drearily bogeyman reportage of the horrendous stockpiling of death weapons, and to distance myself back into that Russia of eternally oppressed masses ruled for centuries by either cruel or feeble rulers from whom albeit had sprung the visionary Peter the Great, the two Catherines — and into the last century whose unmatchable writers, Pushkin, Lermontov, Goncharov, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Turgenev and a host of others all passionately concerned with their country, all deeply in love with it, all tortured by their essential Russianness, a mixture of longing, of a masochistic self-castigation and of inertia.

Thus retreating from the narrowness of the present, one recognized the inevitability of the Revolution together with the irrefutable fact that no revolution ever succeeds, and in particular this one based on the outdated theories of a foreign political philosopher and organized by a brilliant man who already before his death had realized the total impossibility of imposing a dogma inimical to man's nature and revised his ideals into a cruel and costive ideology. What struck me was the continuity of Russia's history, the replacement of Tsars by Commissars who knew they could depend upon a people who had never experienced the opportunity either of ignoring or of escaping from tragedy and pain. It was perhaps the extraordinary intensity of their response to music that led me through this path of analysis to recognize the courage and vision of a Gorbachov and consequently of his need from the West of intelligent help and compassion.

That great man of science, the Nobel Prize winner Andrei Sakharov, released from his exile in Gorki, shared by his indomitable wife, Yelena Bonner, betrayed no sign of any lessening of his supreme love for and loyalty towards his country during our talks together, but stressed that we must on both sides remain cautiously optimistic, perpetually renewing our assurance of friendship at this most delicate of moments when glasnost and perestroika are stirring the Soviet Union. Any loss of belief in the hope of releasing the Soviet people from their age-old bondage could otherwise drive them desperately into a corner from which much mutual damage could be inflicted.

Russia's progress can but be at first like that of the glacier slowly inching its way, slowly emerging from under the permafrost that has for so long frozen its capacity for new thought and thereby its entry into this century. We must use this present hopeful time to forge our friendship with hoops of steel, to try and lessen the gap filled with suspicion and mistrust on both sides, persuade them of our joint responsibilities to a world community that has become a planet and in which it is wilful blindness to pretend that any one single country however powerful can promise the peace all mankind wants, nor the progress in civilized virtues that must underpin a whole new structure.

It will be an epic battle, for Gorbachov has also to engage the trust and help of his own people, in some of whom I detect a certain ambivalence towards the new tenets, based on a comprehensible fear of a change they have hardly known, even an unfathomable dread of the responsibilities that a more democratic way of life may demand of them in return for an improvement in their proscribed and embattled lives. Albeit *glasnost* is already noticeable in any manner of ways: in a greater openness both in communication and conversation, an honesty together with a certain humorous admission of past mistakes, all revealing an easing of that secretive tension that pervaded all exchanges in the past which I found enormously impressive. This epic battle will, I am convinced, see the triumph of Gorbachov's new times. It will determine the fate of an incredibly rich and gifted people more diverse in cultures than any other in the world, occupying an area several times that of the USA. None the less he has also to face the unenviable task of shifting an entrenched bureaucracy for whom the status quo ante has been extremely profitable, whose roots strangle the country and to whose tiny minds the brilliant, the gifted, the courageous constitute a challenge to their hegemony, and trust that he can persuade them to recognize the rightness of his reforms, thereby enlisting their help in a task which alone no single man can accomplish.

The Minister of Culture, Vasily Zakharov, was due to go to India shortly after my arrival; none the less he came to my first concert and warmly thanked me for coming "back", to which I replied it was entirely my pleasure and delight.

At my farewell meeting at the Ministry with the Deputy, Vladimir Kazenin, I could perceive the very real progress, psychologically and humanly, that had already evolved in these few years. It was acceptable to criticize amicably each other's attitudes to the vast problems, to parry and thrust with humour and generosity the pros and cons of each other's impressions of what best constitutes the type of government for different countries and even to meet with no rubber-stamped dogma but rather a mutual agreement that although variety is inevitable, the importance above all is the cosmos and it is the overall state of today's world that no country may impose by fear its own determination of divine right. Kazenin even added that if only a shared belief in the unity and sacredness of all life could be found, a new spiritual attitude, it would bring a less narrow materialist quality to mankind.

I thanked him for this opportunity he so spontaneously had given me and with such Russian hospitality so that I and my wife, Diana, could see the beginnings of this openness, to feel free to talk with a variety of people from the young students to the officials to the Sakharovs, and thus to be trusted as a sympathetic human being, willing to understand their problems and on his part openly to admit the slow pace while to be proud of what achievements had been made, even to smile at my insistence that in so hugely gifted a country it was now the turn of the individual to be free to contemplate the stars and not only the prerogative of their astronauts.

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> **'It was perhaps the extraordinary intensity of their response to music that led me through this path of analysis to recognize the courage and vision of a Gorbachov and consequently of his need from the West of intelligent help and compassion**

Robert Kilroy-Silk

Rising toll of the classroom war

Violence in the classroom is at crisis level, according to one teachers' union. This week the Professional Association of Teachers wrote to the Prime Minister calling for the establishment of a "commission of inquiry into discipline in schools throughout the United Kingdom". The appeal follows a survey conducted by the union which showed that 32 per cent of the 1,500 respondents had been physically attacked by a pupil; 5 per cent had been attacked by a parent; 80 per cent had experienced "offensive verbal abuse"; 86 per cent said that violence in the classroom was on the increase; and 94 per cent believed that indiscipline was becoming more commonplace.

Local surveys conducted by other teachers' organizations support these claims. In Liverpool, the police say there have been 87 recorded cases of assault on teachers in the last year. The NAS/UWT has been campaigning on the issue for some time. It suggests not only that the incidence of violence at school has increased in recent years but that it has also changed in character.

The union says that the children involved in attacks on staff are younger, that girls are now as violent as boys, and that both sexes show a greater readiness to use weapons. It is "only a matter of time", one of its spokesmen warned recently, "before a teacher is killed in the classroom".

Melodramatic as that may sound, the facts suggest it is no idle warning. Indeed, it is surprising that a teacher has not been killed already. Some of the injuries they have sustained have been horrendous. Apart from the well publicized case of the Liverpool teacher attacked with a hammer and left with a brain haemorrhage, many other teachers have received terrible and permanent physical and psychological scars from attacks at school.

One was the woman PE teacher who was beaten about the head by a schoolgirl with a hockey stick to the extent that she cannot now face a classroom and still, several years later, cries when recounting the assault. Another woman teacher told me how a disturbed schoolboy punched her about the head and face so violently that she had to have plastic surgery. Others, men as well as women, testify to how they have been assaulted with fists and boots, attacked with knives, shot at with airguns and burnt with lighted cigarettes. The incidents are many and witnessed by staff and pupils.

What then are the reasons for this "disciplinary crisis which threatens to overwhelm the education service"? Some teachers seek explanations — though refuge would be more accurate — in the abolition of corporal punishment.

They argue that the absence of a deterrent makes it difficult, if not impossible, to control aggressive and unruly pupils. Others know full well, however, that corporal punishment was never a real deterrent, that violence in the classroom existed side by side with the cane and the tawse and that, in any case, it was never a sensible way of dealing with antisocial behaviour.

They also know that the use of corporal punishment was very often a direct cause of some of the assaults and created the resentment and caused the breakdown of trust and respect that lies behind most other attacks.

In any case, as most teachers acknowledge, we live in a more violent society in which the examples of *The A-Team* and *Nightrider* are acted out in every school playground, in which there has been a general loosening of the standards of behaviour and in which violent assaults and mindless hooliganism are on the increase. All these factors inevitably spill over into the schools. Teachers add that they are exacerbated by the fact that parents nowadays are less willing to instil a sense of discipline into their children, are not prepared to give teachers the support they need and, indeed, will more often than not support an undisciplined child.

They go on to complain about a general lack of support from head teachers. Many teachers feel a great sense of grievance and injustice at the way their heads seem more determined to smother any evidence of assault rather than deal with it openly and properly.

Yet while it is obviously true that teachers are at the sharp end of classroom violence and do not always get the help and support they deserve, it is also true that they are not entirely blameless. Schoolchildren will testify to the fact that many teachers treat them like morons and show them little or no respect.

Furthermore, teachers are often just as petty and childish as their charges. They too often indulge in the bullying of pupils, the constant persecution of one child, the holding of grudges and in the public humiliation of the weak. More than one assault on a teacher was probably provoked by the adult's prior bullying and physical aggression.

Nor do many teachers appear to be adequately trained to deal sensitively and constructively with conflict and confrontation. Remedying that should be one of the first priorities. As the union said in its letter to Mrs Thatcher, none of the educational reforms will work if there is indiscipline and chaos in the classroom.

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The author was a Merseyside Labour MP, 1974-86.

Michael Kinsley

The open door marked Exit

Washington

In the closing months of the Second World War, the British and Americans forcibly repatriated thousands of Soviet citizens who had fought on the German side. This shameful episode is better known in Britain than in the United States, perhaps helping to explain the casual indifference with which Americans were preparing to send thousands of Cuban "criminals and mental patients" back to Fidel's island, until these desperate men rioted and took hostages in the prisons where they have been held, some of them for years without trial, awaiting deportation.

The last hostages were released on Thursday. Some of the Cubans will still be sent back. But all will get their cases reviewed and those not accused of major crimes will probably be allowed to stay.

Under an agreement with Fidel Castro that triggered the riots, the prisoners do not face summary execution or death by starvation when they return home. However, they evidently feel that what they do face in Cuba is worse than permanent incarceration in America's extremely ugly prison system. Who would say they are wrong?

Furthermore, unlike those unfortunates repatriated to Stalin, most of the Cubans are genuine lowlifers. On the other hand, the US in 1987 does not have the excuse of the chaos and necessary callousness of wartime to explain a moral miscalculation.

The bureaucratic case for sending these people back to Cuba is impeccable. As aliens apprehended at their point of entry, and then admitted "on parole," they are not merely "illegal" (like people who sneak in and are then captured): they are "excludable." The courts have held that excludable aliens, unlike mere illegals, are not "persons" under the constitution and therefore have no rights at all. If they could have been kept out in the first place, as criminals and the mentally ill may be kept out, they can be summarily deported. If they commit crimes in the US, ditto.

Castro surely played a dirty trick by throwing in the dregs of his prisons and mental hospitals when he let 125,000 Cubans leave in 1980. Nevertheless, it is dawning on Americans that our treatment of these people has been unbelievably callous. Since when, for a start, does the United States lump together criminals and mental patients, as if they formed some common class, civilization's subhuman waste product? Hitler thought that. We don't.

At least a few of the Cubans are poor mental defectives who have never committed any crime. They have spent the past seven years in St Elizabeth's, the federal mental hospital in Washington. Many on the deportation list have been convicted of minor offences, such as possessing marijuana. This may disqualify them to sit on the US Supreme Court, but is life imprisonment in a communist society suitable punishment for this crime?

Even some of the serious criminals have been treated in a way that deserves the hackneyed adjective Kafkaesque. A couple of hundred have been imprisoned without trial since 1980 because of criminal records in Cuba. I doubt that their Cuban convictions met American standards of justice. Thousands of others have been convicted and jailed for crimes in this country, served their time, been duly released, and then immediately reimprisoned indefinitely while the government begged Castro to take them back. Others have been released but are subject to rearrest for deportation at any time.

The list of 2,500 people Castro has agreed to accept (out of 10,000 potentially deportable) is a state secret. No one knows who is on it, including those who are.

The 1980 exodus was Castro's ingenious way of calling Washington's bluff. The government objected at the time not only to the arrival of "criminals and mental patients" but, after a few days, to the whole flood of Cuban freedom seekers. The US is happy to welcome the occasional concert pianist or nuclear physicist who escapes from a communist nation. And, in fact, America continues to take more refugees every year than the rest of the world combined.

Nevertheless, America's regular condemnation of totalitarian regimes for refusing to let their people exit is somewhat hollow, since we would never let them all in. What is the right to emigrate worth if there's no place to go? Despite what it says on the Statue of Liberty, America cannot really welcome all of the world's "wretched refuse yearning to breathe free." But when some of that refuse is swept our way by the tide, even "criminals and mental patients," we wouldn't be America if we just swept it back.

The author is editor of New Republic.

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THE TIMES

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HAUGHEY'S LAW

The amended extradition rules which the Irish Parliament passed this week make a bad law. Although proof of this regrettable fact can come only from practical application, the history of sensitive Anglo-Irish cases tells us that what can go wrong will invariably do so.

Irish governments traditionally display ruthlessness towards para-military republicans within their own borders. They are equally prone to cancel much of this out by periodic appeasing of the section of their population viscerally hostile to Britain. It is possible that Mr Haughey has struck the best deal available. If that is true, his best is not good enough.

He inherited a commitment to complete the ratification of the European Convention on the Suppression of Terrorism by defining the crimes which cannot make use of the "political offence" excuse to avoid extradition from the Republic. It is clear from his own speeches that he accepts the principle underlying this change: that "political" exclusion has set free terrorists. As he said on November 27: "We have to watch the suffering and the agony of the people of Northern Ireland and face up to all the many implications it has for us in this part of Ireland."

Standing by the grave of Wolfe Tone two months earlier, the same voice also said that "at present many Irish people are questioning whether Dail Eireann should agree to submit Irish citizens to a system of justice in which a large section of the community in the North has not yet been persuaded to place its confidence." The first voice is that of the international statesman, the second that of the guardian of republicanism.

Nowadays, republicanism such as Mr Haughey's does not express itself in anything so crude as frontal opposition to British policy. It has more subtle ways. Under pressure from his party, Mr Haughey has inserted a new "safeguard" in extradition proceedings between Britain and the Republic. Warrants for extradition will now have to be passed through both the British and Irish Attorneys-General.

This opens several problems. A relatively simple existing procedure (the "backing of warrants") may now be complicated by inquiries into the background and justification for certificates issued by the Attorneys. More importantly, Irish law allows the detention of suspects for only 48 hours. The authorization and transmission of such certificates will not be easy in the short time available. There will be more muddles on courthouse steps. Lastly, handing the pivotal role in such cases to a political appointee (albeit in his capacity as the Government's legal adviser) is hardly the best way of guaranteeing visible impartiality.

Extradition is neither simple nor easy. Mrs Thatcher slipped in describing the new law as conferring "least favoured nation" status on this country — a judgment for which there is no basis. Britain has been slow to clarify its own attitude to the subject. Mr Haughey labours under additional political difficulties: he governs by the barest of majorities. Some of his supporters appear to believe that he was initiating extradition arrangements with his neighbour, rather than reorganizing them.

These considerations do not excuse the unsatisfactory nature of the result. Governments may argue about the technicalities of procedure, but their fundamental decision about extraditing to another country is a decision about the acceptability of the system to which the fugitive will be handed.

Among the most important criteria is the system's capacity for self-correction — a point at issue in the current Birmingham Six appeal case. If the Government in the Republic has real doubts on this score then it should be questioning the entire business of extradition. But it has neither done this nor set out to educate its own supporters from prejudice to reality.

MANY NAMES, NOT MANY FRIENDS

The Government calls it the community charge. To its opponents it is the poll tax. To American commentators — who have taken great interest in the spectacle of the British Prime Minister under pressure — it is the "head-tax".

The one thing upon which all agree is that the new arrangements for local authority finance will not be welcomed with rapture. For that reason those whose heads tend to be taxed by all publications from the Department of the Environment will find yesterday's offerings more than usually clear. Mr Ridley has produced his own "problem-page", his own "child's guide", his own detailed rebuttal of every Tory taxpayer's fear. The Government has a messy fight on its hands — and it knows it.

Much of the mess stems from a hazy historical understanding by the parties involved. Local councils are not part of the Constitution. For the past century local powers have varied enormously in their extent and operation. The line dividing central and peripheral agencies has kept on the move. The system of local government now in operation in England and Wales dates, more or less, from the early 1950s when a Conservative minister undertook a huge programme of house-building and used the councils as the instrument of his (and Winston Churchill's) ambition.

Since then local government has been part of the welfare state, an element in the post-war consensus about large-scale, collectively arranged provision of social, welfare and educational services. In the past eight years that consensus has almost vanished. Mrs Thatcher has been carried to power and kept there on the back of a current of opinion which is dissatisfied with collective provision, including the part played in it by local authorities.

Yesterday's proposals are a stage in a process. They are not the final act. The system of finance that will be put in place by the new Bill is unlikely to last for a hundred years. New systems for controlling the capital spending of councils — by Mr Ridley's own admission — will be needed sooner.

Ministers claim that they are inaugurating a new world of responsive local authorities, doing different things and enjoying a closer relationship with their voters. That may, or may not, be so. There is a counter case that the new arrangements will not be stable. To that it can only be replied that they will probably be no more unstable than rates have become.

The best that can be confidently said for the new charge is that it is a stage towards repairing a relationship gone wrong. It is a clumsy instrument. It will inflict many bruises on the patient before his recuperation begins. A flat rate tax — even one that pays for a comparatively small fraction of local spending — has few friends.

The rough justice is justified by the progress it makes in the education of those who pay it in the costs of the provisions made by the town and county halls. Eventually it may bring some increase in the small turnout for local elections. That would be a major advantage — if it happens.

In the meantime ministers will have to ward off the immediate assaults. Many will point, for example, to the paradox of reinvigorating local democracy with a system in which central government will account for up to 80 per cent of local spending and will use uniform distribution formulae to allocate the money. The answer to that has to be the pressing desire of most citizens for uniformity of provision, whether it is in schooling or in road maintenance. The British today are surprisingly intolerant of local diversity. But that is not an answer easy to give to locally elected politicians.

Perhaps the desire for central standards is, indeed, a passing phase. The British lived relatively happily with marked differences until the 1920s, when public and fiscal pressure took the relief of poverty into central control and began in parallel a process of incorporating local councils as handmaidens of the welfare state. But for the moment the tide is running strongly in favour of the setting, by central government, both of standards of provision and of strict lines within which local authorities must operate.

The best that can be hoped for from the community charge is that it strips away years of self-deception on the part of both councillors and officials, ministers and civil servants, about who pays for what. It has to be justified from without by the overwhelming agreement that existing financial arrangements are unfit; and from within by the enervating sense that pride in municipal purpose has been lost. It is not the culmination of a clear reform process. It could be a beginning.

FOURTH LEADER

Thanksgiving in the United States has come and gone. Like any holiday, it led to quarrels up and down the land. One man, in Tacoma, Washington, went so far as to assault his girlfriend. Deplorable, we may think, but unfortunately not very remarkable. Lovers' tiffs are soon made up. Why is this one considered news?

Well, this assault was different — very different, you might say. He hit her with the turkey. Meticulous as ever, the boys in blue elicited the weight of the weapon: 21lb. All of a sudden, it seems that the lady has something to complain about.

There is no evidence as to how he wielded the creature; some, in those circumstances, would hold it by the legs, while others, more reckless (and stronger) would seize the neck for real impact. But 21lb of turkey, stuffed or unstuffed, could raise a nasty bruise.

The trouble with this sort of story is that it leaves unanswered far more questions than it settles. At what point in the evening did the fracas take place, for instance? And what was the last straw — or, more appropriately, the last chipolata? It matters because it would be useful to know whether it was the quality of the cooking that so provoked the swain, or whether their differences had no culinary basis.

And another thing. There is no reference to anybody else being at the festive board. A 21lb turkey, even before it turned nasty, would be quite a mouthful for two; it would be easier to understand the business if the assault had taken place a fortnight after Thanksgiving, provoked by the lady serving up cold turkey for the eleventh time. But no; she got the bird on Thanksgiving Day itself, and her friend could hardly have been provoked to so unkind an action because he thought the rations too meagre.

Other, more far-fetched, explanations must be ruled out. It is possible that turkey-throwing is a popular spectator sport in some parts of the United States, and that the assailant was practising for the contest. But he would hardly be trying to beat, say, a throw of 90ft in the dining-room, unless they have some pretty large dining-rooms in Washington. Nor is it likely that the turkey was still alive and attacked him, so that he was only trying to fend it off. ("I plead self-defence, your Honour." "Are you alleging that the lady hit you first?" "No, your Honour, the turkey did.")

There is reason to believe that the whole thing blew over quickly; the police who would be unlikely to jest if serious injury had been incurred, announced that they had not arrested the turkey because when they arrived it was back in the oven. Perhaps, then, all ended happily; let us hope so. But Christmas is coming; quarrels can flare up even in the most harmonious families. Our advice to those with hasty tempers, and those who want to be ultracautious, is to stick to quails.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Critical look at 'Crockford' preface

From the Archbishop of Westminster

Sir, Whatever motives inspired the notorious *Crockford* preface, it is now firmly in the public domain.

Its anonymous author appears to ignore the brave and imaginative leadership Archbishop Runcie has shown, not only in facing the pastoral problems of urban decline, but also in advancing the vital cause of Christian unity. He makes, for instance, no mention of the historic encounter with the Pope at Canterbury, ARCIC (Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission) 1 and 2, Assisi, Swanwick [inter-Church conference] and the recent beatification in Rome of the 85 martyrs, which the Archbishop welcomed so significantly.

Archbishop Runcie has, moreover, done much to earn the gratitude of a great number of people, and not least of

Yours faithfully,
BASIL HUME,
Archbishop's House,
Westminster, SW1.
December 3.

From Lord Fletcher

Sir, I find it very regrettable that you should have published and given so much prominence to the article in *Crockford's* "savaging" Dr Runcie's style. Any anonymous criticism is unfortunate. It is particularly unfortunate for an article so critical of the head of the Church of England to shield behind anonymity.

I am not concerned to judge of the merits or otherwise of some of the criticisms made in the article on Dr Runcie's style. Opinions may well differ about this. It cannot, however, be denied that this anonymous article in an official publication of the Church of England will do incalculable harm to the Establishment and will cause great offence to large numbers of churchgoers.

I am your obedient servant,
FLETCHER of ISLINGTON,
House of Lords.

From the Bishop of Salisbury

Sir, Editorials in newspapers are anonymous, but the paper as a corporate entity takes responsibility for them. The *Crockford* preface is a deplorable institution precisely because no one takes responsibility for it. The writer hides under his cloak of secrecy, and the publishers cower behind their plea of his independence.

The picture which the latest preface gives of the life of the Church of England is grotesquely inadequate. That life is primarily in the parishes. There many splendid things are happening of which any balanced survey would make at least some mention.

But to the writer of the preface that world seems not to exist. Instead he gives us gossip-column criticisms of boringly familiar targets — liturgical change, the Crown Appointments Commission, General Synod. Yet when he comes to his own meagre suggestions for the future, he has nothing to offer beyond what Synod has already put in train.

But the most worrying feature of the preface is more fundamental, and bodes ill for the future. The criticisms of the two Primates and of other leaders and theologians refuse to face the fact that many doctrinal and pastoral issues are complex, and do not admit of clear solutions. Authentically strong leadership may lie precisely in recognising this, and in helping others to recognise it. This our two archbishops have always done with great integrity and disregard for either easy popularity or equally easy martyrdom.

Thank God that they, and not the writer of the *Crockford* preface, are leading the Church of England.

Yours faithfully,
† JOHN SARUM,
South Canonry, 71 The Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

From the Dean of Rochester

Sir, The anonymous writer of the preface to *Crockford's Clerical Directory* has taken advantage of the liberalism he so despises to attack with impunity his own Church and Archbishop.

He should reflect that it is strong institutions, not weak ones, which tolerate uncensored criticism; that it is strong leaders with a strong faith in God and man who are prepared to bear in their own bodies the tensions inherent in the management of change; and that the opposite of "liberalism in practical matters" is illiberalism in practical matters.

Is that what he wants? And, if so, is he not more influenced by the spirit of the present age than by that of "classical Anglican divinity" and its judicious use of scripture, tradition and reason?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN ARNOLD,
The Deanery, The Precinct,
Rochester, Kent.

From the Dean of Winchester

Sir, If the Secretary of the Cabinet and the Permanent Secretary to the Treasury were to allow Mr Edward Heath to be commissioned to write a critical assessment of the present Government's performance, and if, Mr Heath having submitted a long essay containing a savage attack on the Prime Minister and her colleagues, this was then published as the anonymous preface to a Government publication, it might be assumed that these two civil servants were either inept or disloyal. They would either have to give a very good account of themselves or they would have to resign.

I look foward eagerly to the response of the Secretary General of the General Synod and the First Church Estates Commissioner.

Yours faithfully,
TREVOR BEESON,
The Deanery,
Winchester, Hampshire.

From the First Church Estates Commissioner

Sir, May I make a brief comment on Clifford Longley's articles of December 3 and 4, both of which mention me by name.

I play no part in the selection of the writer of the preface to *Crockford*. I never have. I do not know who the writer is and I do not even know who wrote the preface in earlier volumes. I did not see the text or any part of it until the day it was published.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS LOVELOCK,
Church Commissioners,
1 Millbank, SW1.
December 4.

Alamein museum

From Mr Antony Tasker

Sir, Many will sympathise with Dr Brown's letter today (December 1) expressing his disappointment with the Egyptian Government's Alamein Military Museum. But is it not heartening that such a museum even exists?

After all, Egypt's attitude to the war's outcome so often appeared ambivalent, as viewers of *Fortunes of War* may recently have noticed; and however "bizarre and chaotic" the museum may be, it seems at least recognisably Egyptian.

The statement that Britain is omitted from the waxwork figures representing the combatant nations will surprise few who served in the Western Desert and grew cynical of BBC reports of engagements which so often emphasised the role of Commonwealth forces at the expense of the British. This led one of Monty's senior staff officers to remark that the only thing wrong with the Statute of Westminster was that it omitted to provide Dominion status for Britain.

But when all is said and done, perhaps Dr Brown's tribute to the "order and quiet dignity" of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery is how Alamein should be remembered; for without those who rest in it there would have been no victory.

Yours faithfully,
ANTONY TASKER,
1A North Pallant,
Chichester, West Sussex.

Stone Age site

From Dr A. W. Burl

Sir, Not the least of many good reasons for opposing the proposed Sanctuary hotel, near Avebury (letters, November 18, 23, 26) is the likely presence of Neolithic burials in the very ground where the hotel's basement would be dug out. In 1678 a Dr Toope found human bones on level ground within 80 yards of the stone circle which, at that time, was undamaged. The only level ground close to the spot is where the hotel would stand.

Toope discovered the bones because labourers were planting French grass there, and it is most unlikely that the doctor, who wanted the bones for a potion, "a noble medicine that relieved many of my distressed neighbours", recovered more than a few of the skeletons that lay there.

Let them lie in peace, still. Let the transport café be removed and the land returned to the countryside. As William Stukeley wrote in 1724, "This *Overton-hill*, whereon was the elegant temple we are speaking of, is a very pleasant place". Let it become so again.

Yours faithfully,
AUBREY BURL (Meetings Secretary, The Prehistoric Society),
2 Woodland Road, Northfield,
Birmingham, West Midlands.

After the planes

From Mr Preben Jakobsen

Sir, Mr J. St Bodfan Gruffyd's confirmation (November 14) of Lord Aberconway's suggestion of planting maidenhair trees is splendid — but do be warned that only the male clone of the species should be planted. The female clone produces slimy, sticky seeds capable of causing severe accidents, particularly in urban areas. Many problems have been experienced with them in the US.

For other elegant pyramidal townscape trees, two are particularly outstanding — the magnificent, strong-growing Japanese *Malus tschonoskii* for an alkaline soil, and the handsome, upright North American "sweet gum", *Liquidambar styraciflua*, for acidic soil. Both are beautiful large trees with superb, autumn-coloured, maple-like foliage.

The Turkish hazel *Corylus colurna* is a remarkable large tree of pronounced pyramidal form with large pollution-tolerant corrugated leaves and an interesting shaggy bark. It is now being planted extensively in West Germany, where it appears ideally suited to cityscapes.

Of the smaller and more elegant planes, the Cyprian or Cretan plane, *Platanus orientalis insularis*, with its distinctive incised leaves and attractive bark, should be planted in far greater numbers.

Yours faithfully,
PREBEN JAKOBSEN,
Jakobsen Landscape Architects,
Mount Sorrel,
West Approach Drive,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Context for the summit talks

From the Bishop of Birmingham and others

Sir, As patrons of Nuclear Weapons Freeze, we welcome the summit meeting between President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov, as well as their commitment to sign the intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty and to discuss the possibility of 50 per cent reductions in strategic arms. All people of good will must welcome this indication of improved relations between East and West.

The agreement and the discussions which will unfold next week, however, should be viewed within a realistic context. For example, there is a strong chance over the long term that the INF treaty and the strategic arms reductions talks (Start) will not significantly reduce the world's arsenals, if at all.

There are several reasons for this assertion. Firstly, the INF treaty will reduce existing nuclear stockpiles by only 4 per cent. Secondly, it is estimated that more than 7,000 warheads have been produced *during* the INF negotiations, which have succeeded in eliminating only 2,000 warheads. Thus the arms race continues.

Thirdly, talks on reductions have not and cannot stop the process of *modernisation* of nuclear arms. While President Reagan and General Secretary Gorbachov sign the INF treaty next week, scientists in both their nations will be hard at work developing and testing a new generation of nuclear weapons, with greater accuracy and speed, which could lead to increased international instability and, possibly, heighten the risk of nuclear war.

The truth is that reductions alone will not halt the arms race. Only by stopping the multilateral production, testing and basing of new nuclear weapons, will we be able to stop the process of modernisation. Such a "freeze" could be a valuable tool in the arms control process. It would give us a much needed "breathing space" in the long drawn-out process of negotiating cuts in existing arsenals.

One key step to such a "freeze" is a comprehensive test ban. If scientists and their governments are not allowed to test new nuclear weapons, they will have little inclination to develop and base them.

The Soviet Union and the United States already have recommenced negotiations which could lead, step by step, to a test ban.

Britain can play a useful role in supporting this superpower initiative. We were a partner, along with the Soviet Union and the United States, in negotiations, suspended in 1980, for a comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT). When the time is appropriate, we should rejoin the superpowers to negotiate a CTBT.

A CTBT, signed by the superpowers, will accomplish two main objectives. It will signal to smaller states who desire their own nuclear arsenals to hold back, since the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain are committed to "freezing" and even reducing stockpiles. It will also stop the process of modernisation that quickens the pace of the race.

Yours faithfully,
†MARK BIRMINGHAM,
†BARRY BRISTOL:,
†JOHN GLOUCESTR:,
BERNARD GREEN, General Secretary, Baptist Union,
KENNETH G. GREET,
HUGO GRYN, Senior Rabbi, West London Synagogue,
† TREVOR HUDDLESTON,
†ROY LANDAV:,
†PETER MALMESBURY,
JOHN A. NEWTON, Superintendent Minister, West London Methodist Mission,
†DAVID SOUTHAMPTON,
†RONALD SOUTHWARK,
Nuclear Weapons Freeze,
82 Colston Street,
Bristol, Avon.
December 4.

Fairer shares

From Mr G. B. Miller

Sir, A recent survey indicated that a PEP (personal equity plan) investment not only limits the investor's ability to choose his preferred shareholding but (in addition to the normal buying costs) has 5 per cent plus p.a. creamed off his investment by PEP for administrative charges.

Whilst this may be justified in cases where the investor is investing on a monthly basis, I fail to see why lump-sum investors, quite capable of handling their own investments, should be compelled to suffer this loss.

Why should the Chancellor not allow an investor to claim the benefit of the PEP rule if he buys shares directly, can prove that their purchase price did not exceed the allowed figure of £2,400 and that they had been held for at least 12 months? He would still achieve his purpose of encouraging investment by the small man, encourage the holding of shares rather than going for instant profit and at the same time allow the investor to operate at minimum cost.

Yours sincerely,
G. B. MILLER,
68 Adisham Green,
Church Milton,
Sittingbourne,
Kent.

Annus mirabilis

From Mr John Sands

Sir, I read with interest, and some feeling, the view of Mr Christopher Clarke, Chairman of BADA (British Antique Dealers' Association), that "auctioneers' descriptions were pretty worthless" ("Auctioneer is fined over wrong catalogue entry", November 25).

I quote, without comment, the attribution of artist and subject given to lot 89 in Sotheby's sale of British drawings and water-colours, held in London on November 19:

Dominic Serres, R.A. (1722 — 1793)
THE GLORIOUS FIRST OF JUNE 1794.

Yours faithfully,
J. SANDS,
Vanbrugh House Antiques,
Park Street,
Stow-on-the Wold,
Gloucestershire.
November 29.

Out to grass

From Mrs F. H. Cave

Sir, The advice in your gardening section of November 28 — "lawn turf may be laid if the weather is nil and the soil not too sodden" — satisfactorily (to me at least) explains my failure to make much progress towards a lawn: we have too much weather here.

Yours faithfully,
FREDA H. CAVE,
24 Coppershell,
Gastard,
Corsham, Wiltshire.
December 1.

ON THIS DAY

DECEMBER 5 1935

Peter Fleming (1907-1971), accompanied by a Swiss explorer, Ella Maillart, spent seven months and covered 3,500 miles on a journey from Peking to India. "A long way from anywhere" was in the mountains of southern Sinkiang, a Chinese province lying to the north of Tibet. His dispatches to The Times *later formed the basis of his book,* News from Tartary

INSIDE ASIA

INTO THE ALTA TAGH

A LONG WAY FROM ANYWHERE

By Peter Fleming

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... During the two days we camped at Issik Pakte a long-range bombardment with the rook rifle produced two young orongo antelopes. This was lucky, as supplies were running low and we had to provide food, not only for our two new men, but also for the return journey of Borodishin and his Mongol, who were going back from here. My valuable but temporarily useless horse, though slowly recovering his strength on a cannibalistic diet of wild ass's meat, had to be exchanged for half a brick of tea and a ridiculous little mare, amphibious rather than equine in appearance, which the Turkis produced out of the salt marsh by their camp.

ONE CAMEL FAILS

At dawn on May 29 we said good-bye to Borodishin and watched him ride away eastwards, hunched on his camel, eternally sucking at a long Mongol pipe: a gallant, tragic figure, eating out his heart on the Central Asian uplands because he had had no news of his wife and children in Russia for nine years. An hour or two later we started west, and on the following day camped on the salt-caked shores of the Ayak Kum Kul. We skirted the lake on the north, its unnatural, postcard-blue waters mocking our thirsty animals; the only fresh water procurable was a murky, brackish fluid scooped out of shallow holes in the lakeside shingle. Some of this must have been bad, for on June 1, as we left the lake and struck up towards a low pass in the mountains overlooking it, creeping paralysis overtook the caravan. Two of the camels began groaning; at intervals they stopped, breaking the head-rope attached to a wooden peg driven through their noses. Progress became slow, jerky, and anxious; and at last one of the camels knelt down and would not rise. Lashed by a sudden bitter hailstorm, we distributed his load among the others and left him, a forlorn, dwindling speck in that ungrateful landscape.

For the rest of that day we pushed on very slowly, mechanically uttering the mournful, sharply ended yell with which the Mongols encourage their camels, and flicking with our whips their quarters where the wool was coming off in expectation of a summer non-existent up here. We camped that night in a waterless gully, nearly 15,000ft. above sea-level, and woke in the morning to find snow falling. The sick camel still knelt where he had halted the night before, but the others had wandered a long way in quest of the scrubby tussocks which they can eat but horses cannot, and which were the only vegetation here. Our grain was finished. While the Turkis fetched the camels in we gave the two skeleton horses a ration of meat and tsamba, and wondered how soon we were going to lose them too, and wished that our guides were a little more effective on the road and a little less voracious in camp. We were a long way from anywhere. It was not a very hopeful situation.

COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
December 4: The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Salford Station in the Royal Train this morning and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Greater Manchester (Sir William Downward).

His Royal Highness, Chancellor, subsequently visited the Information Technology Institute, Salford University and was received by the Vice-Chancellor (Professor John Ashworth).

The Duke of Edinburgh later visited the Salford Quays Development, escorted by the Mayor of Salford (Councillor Joseph Holt), and afterwards opened the new factory of Continuprint (Security) Limited (Managing Director, Mr Brian Toole) at Trafford Park.

In the afternoon His Royal Highness opened the new library of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and was received by the Lord Mayor of Manchester (Councillor Eileen Kelly) and the President of the University (Sir John Mason).

The Duke of Edinburgh then opened the Chinese Archway, Nicholas Street, Manchester and was received by the Chairman of the Project (Mr Peter Chui) and His Excellency Mr Ji Chaozhu (Ambassador of the People's Republic of China).

His Royal Highness, attended by Major Rowan Jackson, RM, later left Manchester Airport in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

KENSINGTON PALACE
December 4: The Prince of Wales arrived at Halifax Station in the Royal Train this morning.

His Royal Highness, Joint Patron of the Children's Museum, visited the Eureka Project, South Parade, Halifax.

The Prince of Wales afterwards visited the Magistrates' Court, Harrison Road.

His Royal Highness, Patron, Civic Trust, later visited Upper George Yard and Market Street.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, this afternoon visited Lowfields Industrial Site and attended a luncheon at Brighouse Civic Hall, Bradford Road, Brighouse.

His Royal Highness later toured Dean Clough Industrial Park including Hambros Advanced Technology Trust's Office, North Park Computers, and Hex and Bradford Pennine Insurance.

The Prince of Wales, attended by the Hon Rupert Fairfax and Mr Philip Mackie, returned to London in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

His Royal Highness, President, The Prince's Trust, accompanied by The Princess of Wales, this evening attended a Royal Gala Evening in aid of the Trust at the London Palladium, 8 Argyll Street, London W1.

Miss Alexandra Loyd and Sir John Riddell, Bt, were in attendance.

The Princess of Wales this morning opened Marchesi House, a Drugs Detoxification Unit at Northern Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Her Royal Highness, Patron, Help the Aged, subsequently opened the head office of McCarthy and Stone plc at Homelife House, Oxford Road, Bournemouth.

The Princess of Wales, attended by Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Commander Richard Aylard, RN, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

Service dinners

1st Regiment, Royal Horse Artillery
Past and present members of the 1st Regiment, RHA, held their annual reunion dinner at Woolwich last night. General Sir Thomas Morony, Master Gunner, St James's Park, was the principal guest.

RAF Chaplains Branch
The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland was entertained at dinner last night at the RAF Club to mark his visit to the United Kingdom units of the RAF. The Rev M.F. Hucker, Principal Chaplain (Church of Scotland and Free Churches), and Mrs Hucker received the guests. Air Marshal Sir Laurence and Lady Jones and Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs K. A. Campbell were among those present.

Dinners

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Scotland, was host last night at a dinner held in Edinburgh Casstle for television and radio executives.

Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club
Mr Denis Thatcher was the guest speaker at a dinner given yesterday by the Honourable Artillery Company Mess Club at Armoury House. Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Douglas Morpeth, president, presided. Major R.L.L. Davis and Rear Admiral R.G. Heaslip also spoke.

London Maritime Association
Rear-Admiral R.M. Burgoyne, Director of the Royal Institute of Navigation, was the guest of honour and speaker at the annual dinner of the London Maritime Association held last night at the Saddle and Sirloin, Rood Lane, EC3. Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Irving, president, presided, assisted by Mr Derek Prentis.

Marriages

**Dr C. Malak
and Miss M-C. Zananiri**
The marriage took place on Saturday, November 21, at the Brompton Oratory between Dr Christian Malak, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Malak, of Paris, France, and Miss Marie-Claude Zananiri, daughter of Mr and Mrs Antoine Zananiri, of London. Father John Fordham and Father Ronald Creighton-Jobe officiated.

The reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

**Mr D. Part
and Mrs J. Anderson**
The marriage took place on Friday, December 4, in Berkshire, between Mr David Part and Mrs Jenifer Anderson.

Reed's School

A commemoration service to mark the two hundredth anniversary of Andrew Reed's birth was held at St Mary le Bow on November 27. The Rev Victor Stock and the Chaplain of Reed's School officiated. Anthems were sung by the school choir and the Rev Nicolas Stacey gave the address. Among those present were:

The Duke of Devonshire, Lord Bancroft, the Masters of the Mercers', Grocers', Drapers', Salters', Ironmongers', Barbers' and Stationers' and Newspaper Makers' Companies, the Chairman of Governors and Headmaster of Reed's School and representatives of the Royal Hospital and Home at Putney, the Royal Wanstead Trust, the Reedham Trust and the Royal Earlswood Hospital.

A reception was held afterwards at Grocers' Hall.

Tomorrow's royal engagement

The Princess Royal, President of the Federation Equestre Internationale, will visit France until December 11 to attend the general assembly and bureau meeting in Paris.

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ONE DAY SALE ALSO ON THIS SUNDAY 6th DEC.
IN BOURNEMOUTH: AT THE RIVIERA HOTEL, 14 BURNABY RD., ALUM CHINE.
IN CAMBRIDGE: AT THE RED LION HOTEL, STATION RD., WHITTLESFORD.

	RRP	SALE PRICE		RRP	SALE PRICE
(VARIOUS COLOURS) FOX JACKETS	£395	£89	FULL LENGTH SCANDINAVIAN BLUE FOX COATS	£1695	£395
¾ LENGTH MUSQUASH JACKETS	£595	£99	FULL LENGTH RACCOON COATS	£1795	£399
¾ LENGTH RACCOON JACKETS	£695	£149	FULL LENGTH TRENCH STYLE RAINCOATS	£1995	£499
DESIGNER LEATHER & FOX JACKETS	£745	£149	FULL LENGTH SILVER FOX COATS	£2495	£499
FULL LENGTH FUR LINED RAINCOATS	£795	£149	FULL LENGTH DESIGNER MINK COATS/FOX TRIM	£2995	£795
MINK JACKETS	£895	£199	SAGA CRYSTAL FOX STROLLERS	£3995	£1295
¾ LENGTH SILVER FOX JACKETS	£1295	£299	FULL LENGTH CANADIAN LYNX COATS	£7995	£1995

HUNDREDS MORE DESIGNER FURS TO CHOOSE FROM AND A SUPERB SELECTION OF LADIES & GENTS DESIGNER SUEDE JACKETS FROM £9.95 & LEATHER JACKETS FROM £29.95

Paul Handley

Ferrar and the English spirit

On December 2 the followers of the Church of England's *Alternative Service Book* celebrated the 350th anniversary of the death of someone once described as "the complete Church of England man".

A pity then, that the *ASB* has got it wrong and that the man, Nicholas Ferrar of Little Gidding, actually died early on December 4. It is a rough deal for someone who in many ways stands at the centre of English spiritual history.

Nicholas Ferrar was born in 1592 and in his early years displayed a merely conventional brilliance: at Cambridge at the age of 13, Padua when 22, secretary of the Virginia Company in his late twenties and elected MP at 32.

He only came to real prominence in 1625 when he decided to drop out of public life and seek obscurity at the secluded manor and church of Little Gidding, near Huntingdon. Religious communities in England had been wiped out 90 years earlier. Nicholas Ferrar set up a religious community.

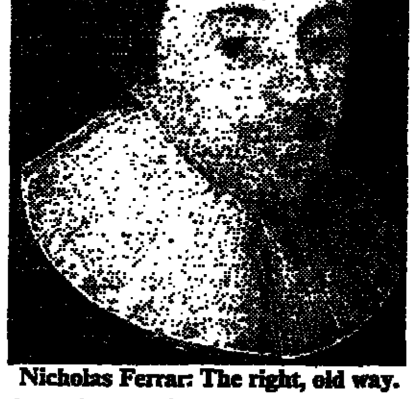
His, though, was something new. With his mother, his sister and brother and their families (he himself remained unmarried) Nicholas established a way of life which incorporated nearly all the elements which typify English spirituality.

It was above all things moderate, remaining loyal to "middle way" Anglicanism at a time when no one else did. It was domestic – a family household (including guests and some poor widows) instead of a single-sex order. It was of necessity practical, the hourly prayer weaved around the work of running a family home, teaching the children and binding the books for which the women at Little Gidding became famous (King Charles I commissioned three and came to see them being produced).

In addition, Little Gidding was a lay establishment. And, by all accounts, life there was joyful, with members founding a "little academie" to tell stories and hold debates.

The whole thing can be summed up in the balance the Ferrars struck between the holy fire and the homely rose. "And the fire and the rose are one", wrote T. S. Eliot at the end of his poem, *Little Gidding*, the last of the *Four Quartets*.

Ironically, the community fell foul of that other English characteristic, suspicion, and in 1647, 10 years after Nicholas's death the place was ransacked by Parliamentarian soldiers.



Nicholas Ferrar: The right, old way.

The Ferrar anniversary has been the catalyst for a new anthology of English spirituality, called *The English Spirit*. It has been produced by members of the modern community at Little Gidding, which was begun in the 1970s and is inspired by Nicholas Ferrar's example.

The book demonstrates that all these elements, such as domesticity and moderation, have set the tone of England's spirituality from the start.

In 1220, for instance, the anonymous author of the *Ancrene Riwle* (the Anchoresses' Rule) is warning his charges of excessive zeal in their devotions: "Wear no iron, nor haircloth, nor hedgehog skins; and do not beat yourselves with these, nor with scourges of leather or leaded thongs...and do not, at any one time, use too many flagellations".

Six hundred years later one of the leaders of the Oxford Movement, John Keble, says much the same thing, though making allowance for a change in religious taste: "I do not think the glory of God best promoted by a rigid abstinence from amusements...On the contrary, I believe that there is more charity lost, than there is sobriety gained, by any unnecessary appearance of austerity."

The practical, workmanlike view of religion is again a constant theme. William Law, in the 18th century, states very matter-of-factly: "I take it for granted that every Christian that is in health is up early in the morning; for it is much more reasonable to suppose a person up early because he is a Christian than because he is a labourer, or a tradesman, or a servant, or has business that wants him".

Two centuries later he would have had no anxieties over the Salvation Army's Catherine Bramwell-Booth. In 1916 she told a friend: "I was reminded of you the other evening by a scrubbing brush and a tambourine...they remind me how really splendid it was to be a cadet...If I were ever in danger of getting above scrubology, I hope the sight of the old original would make me ashamed."

Once again expression is given to the balance between the holy and the homely: the tambourine and the scrubbing brush; the fire and the rose. Eliot should not be offended if Commissioner Catherine's phrase seems a more fitting description of the English spirit, introducing as it does a familiar tone of self-mockery.

For English spirituality can never be serious for long. Sydney Smith, the 19th century clergyman, wit and epicure (in just about that order), wrote after visiting a Puritan family: "I endeavoured in vain to give them more cheerful ideas of religion, to teach them that God is not a jealous, childish, merciless tyrant; that he is best served by a regular tenor of good actions – not by bad singing, ill-composed prayers and eternal apprehensions. But the luxury of false religion is to be unhappy."

Neither the unhappiness nor the suspicion of falsehood afflicted Nicholas Ferrar. When, on his deathbed, he handed the charge of Little Gidding over to his brother John, Nicholas declared boldly: "It is the right, good, old way you are in; keep in it."

The writer is a member of the Little Gidding community.

The English Spirit – the Little Gidding Anthology of English Spirituality *is published jointly by Darton, Longman & Todd and Little Gidding Books; £9.95 (hardback). The Ferrar portrait is reproduced by permission of the Master and Fellows of Magdalene College, Cambridge.*

OBITUARY

PROFESSOR G. S. A. WHEATCROFT

Authority on taxation law

Professor G. S. A. ("Ash") Wheatcroft, who died on December 2, at the age of 82, was an authority on taxation law, the teaching of which he pioneered in universities in this country. His many books on the subject are of outstanding quality and unrivalled reputation.

He left his most enduring mark, however, as one of the principle creators of the ubiquitous system of Value Added Tax, on which he was an official Government adviser.

He had an almost missionary zeal for spreading the gospel of VAT and of taxation law generally, both in this country and overseas. He was a firm advocate of simplified tax sustems as well of international tax harmonization.

George Shorrock Ashcombe Wheatcroft was born on October 29, 1905, and educated at Rugby and New College, Oxford. He was admitted solicitor, becoming a partner in Corbin Greener & Cook, in 1931.

He joined the Army in the Royal Army Service Corps, in 1940. He served in the North African and Italian campaigns, and for a year was responsible for running the port of Naples. He was twice mentioned in despatches, and was released in 1945 with the honorary rank of lieutenant-colonel.

He returned to general practice but soon decided to specialize in company law. An early interest was estate duty, his "first tax sweetheart", and in this (at that time) unfashionable area of legal practice, he rapidly built up a reputation.

In 1951, Wheatcroft became a Master of the Supreme Court (Chancery Division) and commanded wide respect for his knowledge and for the courtesy and patience he extended to those who appeared before him. He was attracted to the office because it left time for writing, and in 1953 his first major work, *The Taxation of Gifts and Settlements*, was published. Like all his books, it was clear and concise.

In 1956, he founded the authoritative *British Tax Review*, and, in 1959, the Addington Society for the exchange of ideas on taxation between leading practitioners, academics and economists.

In the same year, Wheatcroft took the chair of English Law at the London School of Economics, which he held until 1968. It was from this base that he pioneered the work of establishing taxation law as an academic subject, attracting students from around the world.

His literary output both in quantity and quality during these years was considerable. These included *The Law of Income Tax, Surtax and Profits Tax*; *Wheatcroft on Capital Gains Taxes*; and *Capital Transfer Tax*. *Value Added Tax in Great Britain* (1972) was probably the most definitive work on VAT.

Wheatcroft faced the student troubles at the London School of Economics with that courtesy, wisdom and patience that all his friends had come to know. During those years he also advised the Liberal Party – being appointed chairman of its taxation committee in 1965 – and, subsequently, the Conservative Party. From 1971 to 1972 he was the official adviser to the Customs & Excise on the introduction of VAT.

From 1971 to 1979 he was vice-chairman of Hambro Life Assurance, Ltd, whose *Hambro Tax Guide* he edited.

Wheatcroft was a skilled chess player and represented England at Stockholm, in 1937. He was also a fine bridge player.

His wife, Mildred, died in 1978. He is survived by two sons and a daughter.

BRIG GEORGE CHATTERTON

Brigadier George Chatterton, DSO, Commander of the Glider Pilot Regiment during the Second World War, has died at the age of 75.

In a branch of assault warfare which, on both sides, resulted in almost prohibitive casualties, Chatterton nevertheless had moments of success, notably in the Sicily landings, where he was awarded the DSO.

He began his flying career with the RAF in 1930, and became a leading aerobatic pilot. But he was injured in a mid-air collision in 1935 and his flying career seemed to be over.

He therefore joined the Queen's Royal Regiment (TA), and served with the British Expeditionary Force in France. But after Dunkirk he found life dull, and volunteered for the Glider Pilot Regiment. Its commanding officer was killed soon afterwards, and Chatterton succeeded him.

His first major airborne operation was the assault on Sicily. Against his advice – since this was the first Allied attempt at such an operation – the airborne stroke was launched at night, in strong winds. Forty-seven of the 134 gliders fell into the sea, and the others were spread over such a wide area that a more resolute defence would have rendered the effort ineffectual.

Fortunately, the Italians had little stomach for a fight and, in fact, the appearance of glider troops in their rear caused widespread panic. The objective of the landings was two bridges in the Syracuse area, and Chatterton's was among the gliders which found the target area. The bridges were speedily captured.

Chatterton trained pilots for the Normandy glider landings, and subsequently took part in the Arnhem battle. The latter resulted in massive losses of pilots, and the regiment was depleted to the level where its ranks had to be topped up with pilots borrowed from the RAF. Chatterton personally negotiated this arrangement and his force was again operational by the time of the Rhine crossing.

George Chatterton was a charismatic leader who inspired great confidence and loyalty. He was also as hard as nails and a tough commander, insisting that all glider pilots should become "total" soldiers, able, once they had landed, to fight with sten-gun, pistol, grenade and knife, to a no less lethal standard than the troops they carried.

He spent much of his life after the war running the Lady Hoare Thalidomide Trust, for which he raised over £1 million, and was also active as a trustee of the Museum of Army Flying.

As President of the Glider Pilot Regimental Association he set up the Outward Bound Trust to introduce young people to the fun of gliding, under instruction from pilots of his old regiment.

He leaves a daughter, Julia.

MR DONN F. EISELE

Mr Donn F. Eisele, one of three astronauts who, in 1968, flew the first manned flight of the Apollo series that eventually took man to the moon, died on December 2. He was 57.

He was navigator on the eleven-day Apollo 7 mission which breathed new confidence into the American space programme, following a tragic launching pad fire which had killed three astronauts the previous year.

Eisele also became the first person to catch cold in space, and, not unnaturally, passed it onto his colleagues in the capsule. Arriving back on earth in a thoroughly enrheumed condition, the three astronauts provided grateful medical science with its first opportunity to examine the effect of weightlessness on the common cold.

Apollo 7 was Eisele's only space mission. He retired from the USAF as a colonel and went into business.

General Melgar Castro, President of Honduras from 1975 to 1979, died on December 2. He was 52.

He departed, as he arrived, in a coup.

Darcy Penteado, Brazilian artist and homosexual rights activist, died on December 3, aged 61. He painted, among others, Audrey Hepburn and Françoise Sagan.

MISS ALICE SAXBY

Sir Brian Warren writes:
The choice of Miss Alice Saxby, MVO, who died on November 28, at the age of 83, as the first post-war matron of the re-opened Sister Agnes's, the affectionate name by which King Edward VII Hospital for Officers is still widely known, was an inspired one.

Trained in the strict Nightingale tradition of St Thomas's Hospital, imbued with a high sense of duty and single-minded dedication, she rapidly implanted her personality on the medical circle and the patients.

Of diminutive stature and always impeccably dressed, she modelled her philosophy on that of Miss Agnes Keyser, who founded the hospital in her home in 1899 with the patronage of Edward VII.

A personal interest in every patient was paramount, and her twice-daily visits to each of them were never hurried. Her support of relatives in times of fear or sorrow was full of understanding.

A strict sense of discipline pervaded her dealings with her nursing staff, her patients and the doctors. Even Field Marshal Montgomery is reputed to have meekly submitted to a rebuke from her for some minor departure from hospital routine.

By the time she retired, in 1969, after 21 years' service, her friends and admirers were legion.

Church services, page 35.

Birthdays

TODAY: Mr José Carreras, operatic tenor, 41; Lord Chalfont, 68; Miss Lucie Clayton, model agent, 59; Sir William Downward, Lord Lieutenant of Greater Manchester, 75; Miss Enid M. Essame, former headmistress, Queenswood School, Hatfield, 81; Major-General H.R.B. Foote, VC, 83; the Earl of Longford, 82; Lord Matthews, 68; Mr Sheridan Morley, author and broadcaster, 46; Lord Napier and Ettrick, 57; Lord Nathan, 65; Lord Rotherwick, 75; Mr Jeremy Sandford, writer, 53; Mr Harold Sebag-Montefiore, barrister, 63.

TOMORROW: Mr Jack Ashley, CH, MP, 65; Mr Dave Brubeck, musician, 67; Vice-Admiral Sir John Cadell, 58; Air Marshal Sir John Curtiss, 63; Lord Emslie, 68; Earl Granville, 69; Sir Denis Hamilton, former chairman and editor-in-chief, Times Newspapers, 69; Mr Derek Hill, exhibition organiser, 71; Sir William Keswick, former chairman, Matheson and Company, 84; Mr Jonathan King, broadcaster, 43; Sir Richard Lloyd, joint chairman, Hill Samuel and Company, 59; the Right Rev Eric Mercer, former Bishop of Exeter, 70; Mr George Pinker, surgeon-gynaecologist to the Queen, 63; Professor Sir George Porter, Chancellor of Leicester University, 67; Sir Bryan Thwaites, chairman, Wessex Regional Health Authority, 64; Mr Charles Vance, director and theatrical producer, 58; the Right Rev Peter Walker, Bishop of Ely, 68.

Forthcoming marriages

**The Hon William Gibson
and Miss L. Mintz**
The engagement is announced between William, third son of Lord and Lady Gibson, of Penn's Rocks, Groombridge, Sussex, and Lori, only daughter of Mr Herbert Mintz and Mrs Judith Mintz, of Miami, Florida.

**Mr B. Balfour Oatts
and Miss S. Bisset**
The engagement is announced between Brian, son of Mr J. Balfour Oatts and Mrs M.P. Oatts, and Sarah, daughter of Mr M.A.F. Bisset and Mrs J. Bisset.

**Mr C.J. Brown
and Miss V.M. Proud**
The engagement is announced between Christopher James, only son of the late Mr R.J. Brown and Mrs J. Brown, of Elmer, Sussex, and Valerie Mary, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. Proud, of Upminster, Essex.

**Dr P.A.H. Cliffe
and Dr C.M. Smith**
The engagement is announced between Peter Andrew Harvey, son of Dr and Mrs D.J. Cliffe, of Wentworth, Surrey, and Caroline Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.C.H. Smith, of Dartford, Kent.

**Mr A.J. Dart
and Miss P.J. Hedges**
The engagement is announced between Angus, son of Mr M.E.S. Dart and the late Mrs Dart, of Sherwood Farm, Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, and Patricia daughter of the late Mr A.W. Hedges and Mrs Hedges, of Fulscot Manor, Didcot, Oxfordshire.

**Mr E.J. Dawes
and Miss S.D. Freeman**
The engagement is announced between Edward James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Richard Dawes, of Pattingham, Staffordshire, and Sally, eldest daughter of Mr Phillip Freeman, of Hendon, London.

**Mr L.J. Derrick
and Miss L.M. Maddison**
The engagement is announced between Len Derrick, of Palma De Mallorca, and Lilian Maddison, of Wilmslow, Cheshire.

**Mr O.T.V. Edwards
and Miss B.E. Allan**
The engagement is announced between Oliver, younger son of the late W.G. Edwards and Mrs Mary Ramsey, of Tarrant Launceston, Dorset, and Barbara, only daughter of the late J.A. Allan and Mrs Joyce Allan, of Katikati, New Zealand.

**Mr A.R. Gracie
and Miss A.S. Gray**
The engagement is announced between Andrew Robert, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Ronald K. Gracie, of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and Astrid Susan, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs James Gray, of Largiemeanoch Biggar.

**Mr T.P. Ramsden
and Miss L.J. Sales**
The engagement is announced between Terence, son of Mr and Mrs A.E. Ramsden, of Enfield, Middlesex, and Lisa, daughter of Mr D. Sales, of Kent.

**Mr R.J. Story
and Miss J.P. Smyth**
The engagement is announced between Richard, son of Mr and Mrs J.B. Story, of Virginia Water, Surrey, and Jackie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs T.P. Smyth, of Henham, Bishop's Stortford, Hertfordshire.

**Mr R.J. Swainston
and Miss F.M. Alston**
The engagement is announced between Richard, younger son of Mr and Mrs J.N. Swainston, of Middleton-on-Sea, West Sussex, and Fiona, elder daughter of the Rev W.G. and Mrs Alston, of Jordanhill, Glasgow.

**Mr C.J. Whiteley
and Miss A.J.B. Kelly**
The engagement is announced between Christopher James, son of Mr and Mrs R.T. Whiteley, of Warren Farm, Finmere, Buckingham, and Alice Jane Belinda, daughter of the late Mr R.J. Kelly and Mrs A.N. Jones, of Tring, Hertfordshire.

**Mr M. Wilkinson
and Mlle V. Daucourt**
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Wilkinson, of Churchsettle, Wadhurst, East Sussex, and Véronique, youngest daughter of M and Mme M. Daucourt, of Cognac, France.

Memorial services

Lord Drumablyn
The Lord Chancellor attended a service of thanksgiving for the life of Lord Drumalbyn held on Thursday at the Church of Scotland Crown Court Church, Russell Street, WC2. The Rev Kenneth G. Hughes officiated. Mr R.T.S. Macpherson, brother, read the lesson and Lord Renton, QC, gave an address. Among others present were:

Lady Drumalbyn (widow), the Hon Mrs Philip Wilson (daughter), Rear-Admiral and the Hon Mrs James Weatherall (son-in-law and daughter), Miss Sarah Weatherall (granddaughter), Mr James Edmiston and Mr William Edmiston (stepsons), Mr A I S Macpherson (brother), Mrs Rhona Mackintosh (sister), Mrs R T S Macpherson and Mrs G P S Macpherson (sisters-in-law), Mr and the Hon Mrs Ewen Macpherson, Mr and the Hon Mrs Strone Macpherson, Mr Ian Mackintosh, Captain and Mrs Angus Macpherson, Mr Duncan Macpherson, Miss Ishbel Macpherson, Lord and Lady Strathcarron, the Hon Lady Runge, the Hon Lady Lowson, Mrs S Kittermaster, Mr Philip Kittermaster, Mr Nigel Kittermaster, Mr Jock Jenkins, Mr Ian Jenkins, Mrs Emily Runge, Mr and Mrs Charles Runge, Mr and Mrs Anthony Runge, Mr Michael Runge, Mr Dudley Wilson, Mr and Dr E Day, Mrs D Butler-Wilson, Sir William and Lady MacPherson of Cluny.

The Earl and Countess of Kinnoull, the Earl of Selkirk, QC, the Earl of Lauderdale, Lord McFadzean, Lord Stodart of Leaston, Lady Boardman, Lord Orr-Ewing, Lord McGregor of Durris (chairman, Advertising Standards Authority), Lord Ezra, Baroness Elliot of Harwood, Lord Ferrier, Lord and Lady Fraser of Kilmorack, Lord Brougham and Vaux (also representing the Chairman of the Association of Conservative Peers).

Mr Enoch Powell, Sir Gordon Borrie, QC, Lady (William) Fraser, Sir Douglas and Lady Dodds-Parker, Sir James Cleminson (Endeavour Training), Sir William Slimmings, Sir William van Straubenzee.

Dr and Mrs Henry Havergal, Mr Rory MacPherson, Mrs George Baker, Mr and Mrs Peter Thomson, Dr E Eden, Mr Bill Carbutt, Mr W Rowan Hare, Mr James MacLaren Anderson, Mr C M Regan, Mr Neil S Campbell, Mr and Mrs Terence Mallinson, Mr Cameron Cochrane (Fettes College, Edinburgh), Mr D Crichton Miller (Old Fettesians), Mr Roger Underhill (director-general, Advertising Association), Mr J Brudenell (chairman, Institute of Trading Standards Administration) with Mr David Johnson and Mr Tony Northcott.

Mr James S Williams (History of Advertising Trust), Mr K Holland (*Reader's Digest*), Mr James A Brown (Highland Society), Mr Douglas Robertson (Royal Scottish Corporation), Mr Michael Murray (Edinburgh Academical Club), Commander W L Critchley (Association of Mail Order Publishers), Colonel F G Maxwell of Ardwell (St Columba's Church of Scotland, Pont Street) and Mr F M Walker (deputy session clerk, Crown Court Church).

His Honour the Rev D. Harbord
A memorial service for His Honour the Rev Derek Harbord was held yesterday at St Botolph's-without-Aldgate. The Rev Michael Johnson officiated, assisted by the Rev R.E.C. Strevens. Mrs Hilary Rodwell, daughter, read from the works of Canon Henry Scott Holland and Miss G. Eulenburg read the lesson. Mr Peter Harbord, grandson, gave an address.

Service reception

Baluch Regiment
Colonel Mujahid Alam, Army Attaché at the Embassy of Pakistan, and Mrs Alam were the guests of honour at the annual cocktail party of the Baluch Regiment Officers' Dinner Club held yesterday at the Army and Navy Club. Brigadier J.P. Randle, chairman, presided.

Luncheon

Saints and Sinners Club
The Lord Chancellor was the principal guest at a luncheon given by the Saints and Sinners Club at the Savoy Hotel yesterday. Mr Ned Sherrin, chairman, presided and the other speakers were Mr Tim Rice, Mr Brian Johnson and Mr Percy Hoskins, founder president.

Hertford College Oxford

The 1987 Hertford College *Record* has been distributed to all members of the college where an address is known. If you have not received a copy please write to Mr Derek Conran, Hertford College, Oxford, OX1 3BW, and include your matriculation date, occupation and permanent address.

Science report

Fossils of giant sea bird found

By Keith Hindley

The remains of the largest bird ever to swoop over the oceans of the world has emerged among recent fossil finds made by the Charleston Museum of South Carolina.

The creature, thought to be related to the pelicans and cormorants, had a wingspan of about 19 ft and must have weighed about 90 pounds. The biggest birds today are the condor at nine feet and 22 pounds and the albatross at 11 ft and 20 pounds.

The bird, believed to be 30 million years old, is a member of the *pseudodontorns*, the bony-toothed birds, named for the unusually long teeth protruding from their upper and lower jaws.

Pseudodontorns have been known for more than 130 years but previous finds were of isolated bones from much smaller specimens. The new discovery includes the skull and jaws, and a major part of one wing and one leg. The fossil bones are also beautifully preserved, remarkable because the original bones were exceptionally thin and fragile.

Dr Storrs L. Olsen, of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, says: "By providing wing, leg and skull bones, this new find will permit a complete re-evaluation of all other *pseudodontorn* finds.

"We can now decide how many species of these birds are represented in the scattered bone fragments in our collections. One thing is clear, however. This must have been a soaring bird. Their shoulders were so structured that it would have been very difficult for them to flap their wings. This certainly fits in with the albatross-like shape of their wings and suggests a scavenging lifestyle carried along by oceanic winds."

The fossils were found in a block of sand and silt during digging work for drainage ditches and were transported to the Smithsonian for detailed examination. The scientists are attempting a full reconstruction of the bird's skeleton for eventual display at both the Smithsonian and Charleston museums.

One bird is known to have been larger, *Argentavis magnificens*, a 23 ft wingspan giant condor from the plains of Argentina.

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هكذا في الاصل

December 5-11, 1987

SATURDAY

A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE
ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

‘Wine writers hedged for decades and wouldn’t take a position. I do’

With his controversial points system, American wine critic Robert Parker can make or break a vintage or a vineyard. Jane MacQuitty sniffs out the man the critics love to hate

Carl Glassman

Nosy Parker: the selling power derived from his points system is phenomenal. “If it scores 90 plus you can’t buy it, and if it scores below 85 you can’t sell it,” say disgruntled US merchants

The nose has been in town. Robert Parker Jnr, the hard-hitting, powerful and controversial American wine writer, was in London to promote his second wine book and I did not hear one good word about him all week. Not since the Chancellor doubled the duty on wine in 1975 have I listened to such a dramatic character assassination, by both the wine trade and wine Press, of one man.

Robert Parker’s mouthpiece in this country and, more importantly, in America, is *The Wine Advocate*, a detailed, thorough and enthusiastic newsletter. In it Parker evaluates as many as 600 wines in each issue, giving each a tasting note and a score out of 100. The selling power derived from Parker’s points system is phenomenal. As many a disgruntled US wine distributor has put it: “If it scores 90 plus you can’t buy it, and if it scores below 85 you can’t sell it.”

The release of each bi-monthly issue is greeted by a 21,000-strong subscribers-only stampede to those US liquor shops which stock his recommendations. Many of the *Advocate’s* subscribers now belong to the trade too, not just in the US but all over the world. As bemused Eloi Dürrbach — from the once unknown Provence estate of Domaine de Trévallon — discovered, a 92 Parker score is likely to bring with it a host of 3am phone calls from antipodean wine agents, all anxious to import the latest Parker discovery.

Similarly, Charles de Nonancourt, of the little known champagne house of Delamotte, viewed his sudden surge of American imports from an annual trickle to a flood as inexplicable manna from heaven — until he saw the August 1987 *Advocate*, in which his champagnes were rated as 87 and 89.

My first meeting with Parker, at a private dinner, was a surprise. This tall, well-padded 40-year-old is courteous and charming and still has the fresh-faced look of an all-American boy. I was keen to know, as everyone is, how he got started. “I came from a conservative family who drank whisky sours and martinis, and at fraternity parties all I could find was beer-bloating and liquor-numbing drink . . . I had, like most young Americans, been weaned on Coca-Cola.”

Frustrated by the confines of American and, particularly, Maryland life, Parker dropped out of school for a term in 1967 to visit his childhood sweetheart, Patricia, now his wife and a teacher of French, when she was studying at Strasbourg University.

In France in the late Sixties, Coca-Cola cost a fortune, the water was dodgy, and impecunious students had only one alternative: wine. “We toured around Alsace, Paris and the Loire ordering the *vin de table* everywhere. It was fascinating in its diversity. By the time I left I was just in love with wine.”

Back home Parker read all he could on the subject, and set up a tasting group: “I was the local guru.” Holidays were spent in Europe’s vineyards and by 1973, when Parker had qualified as a lawyer and was living in Washington, his interest in wine was all-consuming. He even refused to socialize with people who didn’t drink it.

Parker was now convinced, from the many Washington events given by wine-buffs, that he was tasting more than the experts. He was frustrated too that there was no independent consumer-oriented wine advice available; everything was written by people either in or closely associated with the trade. So in spring 1978 Parker’s first private wine newsletter *The Wine Advocate* appeared, containing a damning review of the ’73 clarets.

The frontispiece then carried the same guidelines as it does now, outlining Parker’s 50-100 point quality scale and stating that the usual 20-point rating system, as used by Davis, the important California wine school, and others, did not provide enough flexibility. Parker’s stern warning — “*The Wine Advocate* takes a hard, very critical look at wine, since it would prefer to underestimate the wine’s quality than to overestimate it” — was soon to be felt by the entire US wine trade.

In the next issue Parker slammed California’s early vegetal Cabernet Sauvignons and over-oaked alcoholic Chardonnays. A favourable *Washington Post* review provided, as Parker put it, “the big break early on”.

In 1982 Robert Finigan’s *Private Guide to Wine* was still the top wine newsletter. But 1982 turned out to be Robert M. Parker Jnr’s vintage. After his annual visit to Bordeaux he wrote a glowing buy-now-or-else review of the ’82 clarets, now acknowledged as a truly great vintage. Finigan did not agree: he was lukewarm about the wines; the US wine trade and wine drinkers followed Parker. Overnight the *en primeur* (still-in-cask) claret market switched from Britain to the United States. Parker’s name, nose and reputation was established. Nevertheless, it was not until 1984 that the *Advocate* showed its first profit and Parker gave up the law.

Since then Parker, a workaholic, has scarcely put a foot wrong. En route, however, this mild-mannered Mr Nice Guy has generated an extraordinary amount of antagonism, both here and in America. Parker is depressed by what he reads and hears: “I am not the tyrant or the ogre that they think.” Certainly, his way of working is impeccable. He visits vineyards, mostly in France, for three months of the year, refusing all free trips, not taking advertising, and spending about £36,000 on tasting samples annually.

PARKER’S CHRISTMAS WINES

My Christmas buying *strategy is to find several* terribly under-valued wines from France so that I can splurge on one of the greatest ports made in the last 35 years. To start, the ’79 **Charbaut Blanc de Blancs**, an elegant well made 100 per cent Chardonnay wine that competes favourably with many of the outrageously priced luxury champagne *cuvées*. H. Needham & Sons, 123 St John’s Hill, Sevenoaks, Ken, £17.50.

90 POINTS

● On to an Alsace Pinot Blanc from the 1985 vintage. I drink a lot of these wines because they are so flexible with food and such great value. Try the **’85 Zind-Humbrecht Pinot Blanc** from La Vigneronne, 105 Old Brompton Road, London SW7, £5.45 a bottle or by the case from L’Alsacien at the same address for £56.40.

84 POINTS

● *My* red wine is a sensationally valued, newly released **1985 Château *Pitray***, *the finest wine I have* ever tasted from the Côte de Castillon adjacent to St Emilion. It has an intense, toasty and ripe berry fruitiness, medium to full-bodied, and an elegant and lush texture on the palate. Corney & Barrow, 12 Helmet Row, London EC1, £4.

86 POINTS

● Lastly a sensational and mature vintage port, the **1963 Fonseca**, my favourite port of this vintage for current drinking. Its majestic perfume of fruitcake, oriental spices and ripe plums is exceptionally enticing. It will make a great end to my Christmas feast. Reid Wines, The Mill, Marsh Lane, Hallatrow, Bristol £40.82.

96 POINTS

● An airmail subscription to The Wine Advocate is $55 for one year or $100 for two years. Contact Robert Parker at The Wine Advocate, Box 311, Monkton, Maryland 21111, US.

“Having been a lawyer,” says Parker, “I know all about conflicts of interest.”

All this unpleasant Parker back-biting could just be due to what the Australians call the “tall poppy syndrome” — anyone with a high profile immediately gets chopped down.

Parker knows his own power. “I have probably reached a point where I have as much wine influence as any one person can have.” Such unfuddled understanding of his own worth does not endear him to his critics.

This year Master of Wine Clive Coates attacked Parker in his British newsletter *The Vine* (subscription 3,250), quoting an unfavourable review of Parker’s first book, *Bordeaux*, by wine merchant Bill Baker in the wine magazine *Decanter*. Coates then picked up the cudgel: “It would be very dangerous indeed if the opinions of such ‘experts’, let alone the view of a single gentleman such as Robert Parker, were of such power as to create or destroy the market for a vintage or a wine.”

Parker, understandably, had been annoyed by the review. Indeed, ungentlemanly Coates went on to quote a letter from Parker to Baker which complained that Baker’s review was untrue, and was “that of a small, jealous person”. Coates ended with the warning: “Beware of getting swollen-headed.”

All this from a man who, on meeting a Californian winemaker for the first time, reportedly said: “I’m Britain’s answer to Robert Parker”.

The leading wine writer Jancis Robinson, of the *Evening Standard*, recently took Parker to task in *Condé Nast’s Traveler*, an American magazine: “I too am concerned about what has become known as ‘the Parker phenomenon’. In particular, I’m deeply worried about the effects of his scoring system and the blind faith with which it is followed in America . . . I don’t buy any system that distinguishes between an 83 and an 84 (point) wine.”

What Robinson and other British wine authorities would like to see, and debate, is not scores from Parker but grades. Or, as the Bordeaux wine buff David Peppercorn said in *Decanter*: “Broad categories are clearly likely to greatly reduce the margin for error.”

Parker, like myself, cannot understand the detailed, continuing controversy surrounding his scoring system. “My scores are there simply as an accessory to enhance and complete my tasting notes”. What is confusing to a British audience is that Parker’s points are based on the American education system: 50 is the lowest mark and 100 is the highest. Parker claims that you can read his tasting notes, without looking at his scores, and still glean all you need to know about the wines.

This endless scoring debate and apparent wholesome concern over Parker’s power seems to me to be a smoke-screen hiding the central issue. Any scoring system is only as good as the person who employs it and Parker is very, very good at what he does.

One *Decanter* reader, Sir Anthony Alment, having analysed one issue of Parker’s prose, found that he uses 120 different adjectives, including five different degrees of concentration for one fruit flavour, Bordeaux’s famous blackcurrant taste, and a well-documented characteristic of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape.

Parker is also prepared to admit when he makes a mistake. Take this comment from his latest issue: “I seriously underestimated the ’83 Cockburn Port”; *and* he changed its mark from 88 to 95.

The proof of Parker’s talent lies in his success. His readers would not go on reading the *Advocate* and buying his recommendations if they did not like them. The hostility from merchants and other writers seems to be mostly thinly disguised jealousy over his power. The plain fact is that Parker, by saying exactly what he thinks about a wine, is doing what other wine writers would like to do, if only their advertising directors and consciences would let them.

Parker would rather all this had not happened but he has no intention of dropping the scoring system. “American wine writers hedged for decades and wouldn’t take a position. I do.”

With two books to his name here — *Bordeaux* (Dorling Kindersley, £12.95) and *The Wine Buyers Guide 1988* (Dorling Kindersley, £10.95) — and two more on the way — *The Wines of The Rhône Valley* and *Provence*” — in the spring, and *Burgundy* still on his word processor, Parker will continue to spread his opinions.

INDEX

Gardening	17	Arts Diary	19
Out and About	14	Bridge	19
Opera	20	Chess	19
Review	18	Concerts	20
Rock & Jazz	20	Crossword	19
Shopping	17	Dance	20
Times Cook	15	Drink	15
Travel	12	Eating Out	14
TV & Radio	20	Films	20
TV films	20	Galleries	20

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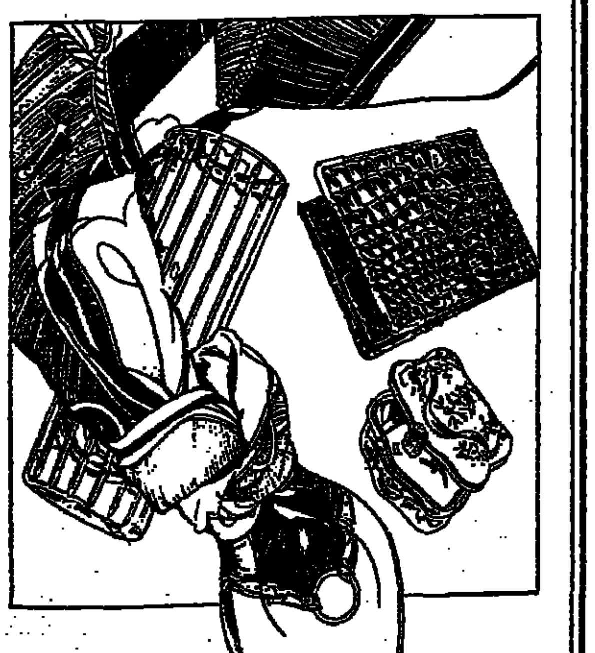

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CHRISTMAS GIFTS ALSO APPEAR ON PAGE 16

TRAVEL 1

Nursery on the slopes: tomorrow's racers show their style

Tears for souvenirs

Children and skiing holidays need not be mutually exclusive, as **Peter Brown** found this year in the French Alps

Allied with the French genius for creating leisure resorts out of virgin stretches of coastline and mountain ranges, there runs a sadistic streak. Why else, when they came to build Flaine, should they name the red runs Faust, Mephisto, Diable, Belzébuth and Lucifer?

Gallic exaggeration, I thought, until the day when the snow clouds gathered themselves over the top of Mont Blanc, took a look at our slopes and began to schuss down. With drifts five feet high, no piste, and a white-out, Mephisto lived up to its name. "I want my mummy!", the cry of the nursery slopes, seemed suddenly right for me. I picked up my skis and walked down to what a ski rep, in an unguarded moment, had called the concrete jungle.

Concrete it is; jungle it isn't. Everything at Flaine is within easy reach of the lifts; there are no cars, no queues; no child can be lost for long, or squelched by some bandit showing off his fast finish, since the nursery slopes are sited out of harm's way. And though the town is ugly, the setting — in a high alpine valley that until 1969 held nothing but a hiker's hut — is compensation enough. Flaine's chairlift link with Les Carroz and Morillon brings together 30 lifts and 140km of piste — smaller than the rival Trois Vallées but more than adequate for a week's holiday. They call it the Grand Massif.

Back in the safety of the hotel room, the corridors, like Mephisto, echoed to the wails of souls in torment: one, two, three-year-olds, they all sound the same through a few partition walls. For those of us who had left the very young at home there was something reassuring about it; nothing beats a trouble shared like a trouble that belongs to someone else.

> 'The hotel corridors echoed to the wails of souls in torment'

Lounging on the bed, our seven-year-old, Toby, was blissfully silent, deep into the Famous Five. On the front cover, everyone except Timmy wore Levis. Yet another barbed reminder: the days of childless skiing, like short trousers for boys, were long gone.

In the restaurant, where a high-chair adorned every other table, the English children were the ones turning up their noses at the sauces and demanding chips. The French were the well-behaved ones in white jump suits. Flaine being a small and friendly place, parents of both nationalities were introduced to other parents by their children — "this is Jean-Paul, he's in my class".

The form after that was to agree with the other couple that we were there for the children; so much better for them to learn young. The truth was that none of us, bitten by the skiing bug before the *enfants* were thought of, could stand the thought of giving it up, and to hell with the bank balance.

Our hotel was well equipped for this market, with both a nursery for babies and a kindergarten open all day, an efficient baby-listening service, and a (small) variety of activities between 8pm and 9pm for children of all ages. If you've been skiing properly, the theory was, you'll hit the pillow shortly after the offspring.

In the morning it was croissants for breakfast, orange juice, and how many times do we have to tell you they don't eat cornflakes in France? Then the ski boot struggle and off to the nursery slopes, already crawling with crocodiles of goggled toddlers herring-boning up and down, quite a few of them in tears to which their teachers sensibly remained blind.

Enrol your child in the Rabbit Club and you can dispose of him at 9am and ski all day, picking him up at 5pm. The club will teach him (it has a mini button-lift), play with him (in the snow garden), and feed him. But like everything else in Flaine, it is expensive (up to £82 for six days).

We opted instead to enrol our son, skiing for the first time, for two two-hour lessons a day and to eat with him at lunch. This curtailed our skiing time but allowed us to venture out *en famille* before and after lessons, enjoying the complete fearlessness with which a youngster knowing only the snow-plough will attack any slope. No need to tell them to look down the mountain as they turn; that's the only way they look.

There are two ski schools in Flaine — the ubiquitous École du Ski Français and the newer International, whose instructors are said to speak better English. The advantage of ESF is that a child can join the school year by year anywhere in France, present his card, and slot into a familiar system. The disadvantage, at least in Flaine, was that our son's teacher, though blessed with a saint's patience, spoke mainly in French.

But if children learn mainly by copying, does the verbal instruction matter? Yes, said another teacher. "The best age for children to learn is five, when they have the physical ability and they can understand what is said to them. But at any age after that, children will still learn faster than adults."

With that in mind, parents may do better to avoid the French resorts during the month of the staggered French half-term, which began in 1987 on February 14. At other times Flaine, at least, is more English than French. Even now, Toby's favourite memory of his first week's skiing was watching a cricket match played late in the evening, on the snow. Blackpool won.

TRAVEL NOTES

Peter Brown flew to Flaine with Ski Enterprise (01-748 5080) and stayed at the Hotel Les Linders (which specializes in families). This year a week's holiday, full-board, costs from £262 (low season) to £352 per person.

TOBY'S DIARY

Day One: I went up a chairlift. Then I skied with the class. We had to put our hands in the air and we went through the teacher's legs. I learnt how to stop.
Day Two: I went up the yoghurt pot lift. Then I jumped off and went on a draglift and skied all the way down. It was quite difficult because we had to ski slalom, going from side to side. I went through one or two sticks.
Day Three: We did a bit of jumping.
Day Four: It was very windy so I couldn't go on the lifts so I skied on the nursery slope. We used our poles for the first time, mainly for turning. I had a test slalom.
Day Five: We had our tests. I got the snowflake badge but not grade one because my turns weren't good enough.
Day Six: Last day of skiing. It was very bad weather but we had to go up lots of lifts and the fast ones. We skied down and we did little jumps and after that we went backwards on our skis. At the end we did very big jumps through the woods. Then we skied all the way down on the blue run.

هكذا في الاصل

مكرر مع الاصل

Into Africa on foot – if you're game

A walking safari can take you closer to the heart of Africa than the four-wheel drive variety, Andrew Powell writes

On my very first morning in an African game park I came to an important conclusion: the recipe for a memorable safari is a great deal more complicated than anyone ever imagines. Seven years and as many safaris later, I am still experimenting with different permutations of ingredients.

That first day began an hour before sunrise. The seats of the Land-Rover were dripping with dew as we lurched out of the camp on to a dirt road, crashing from pothole to pothole, the body of the vehicle *trying* to wrench itself from the chassis in the classic African manner. After about 10 minutes the driver pulled off the track and stopped. We sat expectantly, shivering, waiting for the dawn.

Within minutes the elements of the landscape began to separate themselves from the early-morning mist and as the light strengthened the animals gradually emerged from the murk. Thousands of them. There were dense herds of buffalo, zebra and wildebeest and, scattered at random, smaller groups of waterbuck, hartebeest, topi and Thomson's gazelle. A short way off, half a dozen elephants, muddy brown after a *midnight* wallow, were engaged in some energetic deforestation, while a giraffe fastidiously trimmed the topiary of a *flat-topped acacia*.

In the next couple of hours we drove little more than a mile across Kenya's Masai Mara, but we *still* managed to encounter a pride of lions, a pair of cheetah and dozens of less obviously newsworthy animals: hyena, jackal, hippo, porcupine, baboon, warthog, impala, mongoose . . .

By 7.30am the sun was fully up and quite hot. "We're outside the reserve now," my guide shouted through the roof hatch. "We'll get out, stretch our legs and have some coffee." Having recently seen five full-grown lions no more than a quarter of a mile away I considered voicing doubts about the wisdom of this impromptu picnic, but it was too late: he was already striding away towards a convenient flat-rock with drink and sandwiches. Setting one boot cautiously on to the freshly cropped grass, I saw the *last* of the antelope bounding off in the direction of Tanzania. (I am still amazed by wild animals' indifference to safari vehicles and their terror at the sight of a solitary human being.) "So this is it," I thought, standing with both feet on the turf. *"This is Africa".*

Good at trimming the topiary: a giraffe in one of Kenya's game parks

Instantly I realised the absurdity of the reflection. After all, three days had passed since the delights of Nairobi customs. Nonetheless the impression persisted. It was not until I stood on the ground with nothing but the breeze between me and the animals, away from civilization in all its forms (though admittedly not far away from the Land-Rover door) that I felt I had truly arrived.

"Safari" is a Swahili word, derived from the Arabic "safar", meaning a journey. My dictionary gives the English definition as "a hunting expedition in Africa". Nowadays most people would, I suspect, be more comfortable with "a holiday in Africa looking at *wildlife from a Land-Rover"*. The hunting safari is still with us – you can pay around $5,000 (about £2,600) to bump off a leopard in *any number of countries if you feel* so inclined – but there are now many fewer people determined to have glass eyes staring at them from *their living-room walls.*

"But you know it's nothing to do with killing animals," the hunting apologists always say. "It's the bush; getting out in the horn-scrub, smelling the dust, being frightened, looking at the Milky Way from a sleeping bag, feeling the ground underneath your pillow tremble when the lions roar, following their spoor next morning . . . That's what it's about. *The atavistic emotions.* The race memory. It's in all of us."

Of course they are absolutely right. Apart from a tiny minority who just enjoyed blasting away at elephants, these are the reasons why many people earlier this century went on hunting safaris and why so many of them became obsessed with Africa. And these are precisely the qualities that are missing from the modern two weeks in Kenya, staying in air-conditioned lodges, being driven around in mini-buses. The tourist "safari" is easy, fairly comfortable and safe. It may be the same word, but it's a very different experience.

Not, I hasten to add, that I have anything against motorized safaris in principle. They can be marvellous, as far as they go. If you want to see a lot of animals, to observe them close-up, to take photographs, then you will have to be on wheels. The problem is just that you will always be a spectator, never a participant. In addition, some game parks – mostly in Kenya – are getting indecently crowded.

But as *Darwin* pointed out more than a century ago, we are not spectators of nature, we are *part of it, and perhaps* this goes some way to accounting for the increased interest in walking safaris.

Safaris on foot have all the virtues of the old-fashioned hunting kind, without the guns. They generate the adrenalin and provide the magic to send you back to Laurens van der Post's Kalahari books with renewed enthusiasm. Admittedly they do have limitations: you see many fewer animals and it is very difficult to get close to them. (In the case of lion, buffalo, elephant and rhino, you may well feel a few hundred yards to be quite close enough.) Above all, on walking safaris you generally cannot go inside game reserves, only along the edge of them – though of course nobody has told the animals precisely where the edge is.

All such drawbacks are, however, forgotten as you tiptoe from bush to bush up to a herd of quietly browsing elephant. It's surprising how much bigger they look from down on the ground.

Philip Dunn

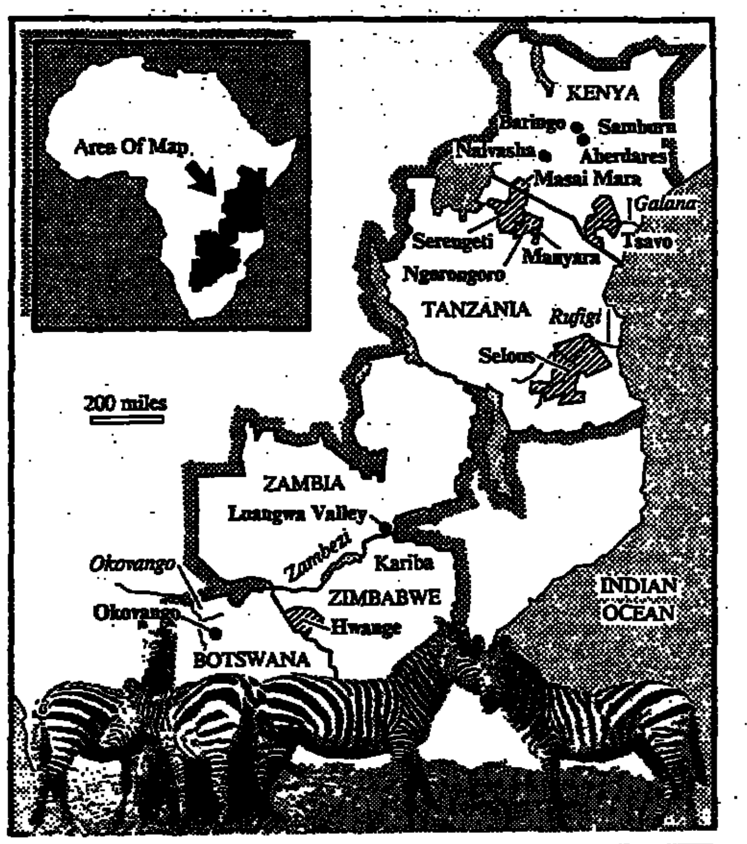
So this is Africa: a Masai warrior in Kenya at home with the benefits of modern technology

So what kind of fit and intrepid people are suited to this kind of experience? The answer is virtually anyone, because a walking safari may be a three-hour stroll in search of the ice bucket and the Muscadet (Galana Ranch, Tsavo, Kenya) or a week on the march, sleeping outside on the ground at night (the Selous, Tanzania). Nor of course does a walking safari preclude a few days of the four-wheeled variety.

If called upon to describe the best of all possible fortnights in Africa, I might well suggest a combination of week on foot somewhere like Mana Pools in Zimbabwe, combined with a Land-Rover week in, say, Tanzania's Serengeti. *This way you* can have the best of both worlds.

The area of Africa best known for walking safaris is undoubtedly the Luangwa Valley in Zambia, and in southern Africa generally people are encouraged to get out on foot much more than in Kenya and Tanzania.

East Africa caters primarily for Europeans and Americans, most of whom have never seen a wild animal before. This is not to say that there aren't good walking safaris in East Africa: they can be found in both the Tsavo and Samburu regions of Kenya, for example. *Moreover the most ex*citing recent development is the opening up of the vast untouched wilderness of the Selous in Tanzania. *Well*-organized walking trips are just beginning along the Rufigi River, one of the few areas of Africa virtually unchanged since the era of exploration a hundred years ago. I know where I shall next be going on safari.



TRAVEL NOTES

Abercrombie and Kent, Sloane Square House, Holbein Place, London SW1 (01-730 7795), has unrivalled experience of safaris throughout Africa. An excellent company, but not if economy is your first priority. A 12-day safari in Kenya on camel or on foot ranges from £1,290. EcoSafaris, 146 Gloucester Road, London SW7 (01-370 5032) specializes in southern Africa and particularly in walking safaris in Zambia's Luangwa Valley. Twickers World, 22 Church Street, Twickenham (01-892 7606) has considerable safari expertise. The East African rains are in April/May and November. The British winter is therefore the high season. In southern Africa the wet season is from November to March. The best season is therefore the British summer. Walking safaris are impossible in the wet.

A BRIEF GUIDE TO AFRICAN GAME AREAS

KENYA

Samburu: Very beautiful mountainous landscape where fertile central Kenya meets arid northern region. Small reserve (40 square miles). Animals are quite numerous with a reasonable chance to see the elusive leopard. Considerable amount of tourism. Large, impersonal lodges, of which Samburu River Lodge is the best. Excellent six-day walking safaris (with camels for the exhausted) take you off into wild areas.

Aberdares: *Mountainous,* forested area, three hours' drive north of Nairobi. National Park now ringed by farmland and electric fence. Animals difficult to see except at salt licks, but many elephant and spectacular black and white colobus monkeys. Famous for Treetops and The Ark forest lodges. The Ark is the better of the two, but Regents Park Zoo arguably more exciting than either. Nearby Aberdare Country Club very dull and over-rated.

Rift Valley Lakes. Lakes Baringo, Nakuru, Naivasha: Recommended for bird watchers. Flamingos on Nakuru especially glamorous. Nakuru also now has a rhino sanctuary. Best lodge is Baringo Island Camp, *Lake Hotel,* Naivasha is pleasant enough, but lots of weekenders from Nairobi (only an hour and a half away).

Tsavo: Very large (8,000 square miles) national park in south-east Kenya. Variety of terrain, but mostly hot and dry bush country. Once prolific game almost annihilated by poaching, but still some lion, elephant, antelope . . . Good area for walking safaris. Galana Ranch *on edge of Tsavo excellent* for small parties (six to eight people). Genial and articulate manager takes short trips on foot. Very good *bird* watching along Galana River. Tsavo Safari Camp has comfortable tents and organizes camel treks.

Bigger from the ground: baby elephant in Aberdares National Park

Masai Mara: Easily Kenya's best game area, now in danger of being wrecked by greedy Masai landowners who have short-term financial interest in maximizing tourism. Beautiful open, grassy plains with literally millions of animals – especially in September, October, November when wildebeest migration arrives from adjacent Serengeti. Not good walking terrain, but several ex*cellent tented camps which* are a hundred times more exciting than lodges. Best of the bunch is Little Governors Camp. Kitchwa Tembo is also good, but much larger and therefore more hotel-like.

TANZANIA

Manyara: Small park (120 square miles), with huge numbers of animals including famous tree-climbing lions. Size of park means tourism can be oppressive. Government lodge is terrible, but *Gibbs Farm,* two hours' drive away, is delightful: limited number of rooms on a working coffee plantation.

Ngorongoro: Second largest volcanic caldera (extinct) in the world – *nine miles across. Sensational* scenery and perfect game viewing: black-maned lion, rhino, cheetah, 50,000 flamingos on crater *lake . . . One of the most wonder*ful places on earth, Ngorongoro has to be seen to be believed. Ideally camp on floor of crater, *otherwise Crater Lodge on the rim* is not too bad.

Serengeti: The world's finest game reserve, with 5,600 square miles of glorious open plains and the incomparable spectacle of the wildebeest migration – four million animals (including zebra and Thomson's gazelle) on the move. This is best seen in January and February in the south of the Park near Ndutu. Lodges are poor, food dire, but there are rumours of a tented camp to be set up in the near future. The Serengeti spoils you for everywhere else. No walking though.

Selous: Enormous reserve, 21,000 square miles, around the Rufigi River. Hardly anyone goes there, but many animals including largest elephant population in Africa. Marvellous, but strenuous, walking safaris.

ZAMBIA

Luangwa Valley. Tangled riverine forest, particularly famous for walking safaris between June and October – too wet at other times. Large animal population including *many elephant and hippo.* Fair amount of tourism, but not overwhelming. Best lodges are Kapani and Chinzombo. Tena Tena tented camp organises bush walking, as does Chibembe Lodge. Land-Rover game viewing (as elsewhere in southern Africa) is from open-sided vehicles – much preferable to the closed-in East African variety.

BOTSWANA

Okovango: Incomparable bird watching in the beautiful delta of the Okovango river. Some short walks on islands, but mostly travel is by boat through the reeds. Large mammals are chiefly on the "mainland". Best and most tranquil camp is Xaxaba, right in the middle of the delta.

ZIMBABWE

Hwange: *Very large (9,000 square* miles) national park, with complete range of animal species. Landscape however is flat, *scrubby and boring. A lot of* tourism, but the park is too big for it to make much difference. Best walking safari camp not opera*tional at present, but there will* doubtless be a replacement shortly.

Mana Pools: Stunningly beautiful *national park – mountains,* open plains, forest – on banks of the Zambezi. A lot of game, including all major species. Bush walking *from excellent Ruckomechi* Camp. Week-long canoe safaris (with walks into the bush) from Kariba downriver to Ruckomechi, *are only for the adventurous,* but are unforgettable.

US value by the pound

The weaker dollar is already producing plenty of bargain offers for transatlantic travel.

Northwest Airlines, for instance, is offering "hundreds" of fly-drive packages at prices *up to 25 per cent below 1987* levels, with the proviso that all holidays have to be booked and paid for in full by March 31. Typical rates include £259 for a holiday based in Boston, including seven days' car hire, or £318 to New York (information: 0424 224400).

Pan American (01-629 8262) is reviving its winter weekend breaks to New York and Washington, with prices starting at £299 for a three-night stay, but is also introducing optional four-day extensions to the Bahamas or US Virgin Islands from an extra £249.

The specialist operator Globespan (0293 541541) is laying on weekly charters from Gatwick to Boston and New York during next summer's peak season, with return fares ranging *between* £229 and £249 for bookings made by January 8, after which the rates will increase by £60.

TRAVEL NEWS

- *This winter, skiing holidays are growing at a faster rate than sunshine trips and long-haul business is increasing at almost twice the rate of conventional. Mediterranean packages. Low-cost charter flights from London to three more Scandinavian destinations – Copenhagen, Bergen and Stavanger – will be operated next summer by Scanscape Holidays (01-251 2500), supplementing the recently-launched services to Stockholm, Gothenburg and Oslo. Return fares will start at £95 to the Norwegian destinations, £110 to Copenhagen and Gothenburg and £120 to Stockholm.*

Package myths

Some of the popular stereotypes about the typical package holiday-taker are shattered in a new market-research exercise by the Pickfords Travel chain. It has found that just as many people from high income groups as those in the middle-income bracket now buy a package and that more 45 to 64-year-olds go on package holidays than 15 to 34-year-olds. Lancastrians, apparently, are dedicated package purchasers while Yorkshiremen.

Guide for disabled

The 1988 edition of the annual guide to UK holidays suitable for the disabled will be published shortly by the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, Radar. It contains detailed information on hotels and holiday centres as well as sections on transport, accommodation for children and activity holidays. The guide will be available next month at £3 from W. H. Smith branches or by post at £4 from Radar, 25 Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

- *Ski Beach Villas reports that the skiing season has got off to an early start, with "excellent" snow conditions at Verbier and in Andorra. It has a range of staffed chalet holidays available in Morzine, Meribel and Andorra over the Christmas period, with prices starting at £159 for a week (information: 0223 350777)*

Philip Ray

TRAVEL BOOKS

***The Traveller's Guide to The Great Art Treasures of Europe,* by David Lawrence Morton (Arlington Books, £12.95 in hardcover, £8.95 paperback) is a 560-page primer on what to see and where to see it. It is too chunky to cart around the galleries. But for sorting out which galleries to see, its descriptions are short and sweet.**

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OUT AND ABOUT

An uncertain future: the exterior of the William Morris Gallery and, right, the man whose life and work it commemorates

Crafts before cuts

A gallery of William Morris's work is under threat of closure; Nigel Andrew suggests a speedy visit to Walthamstow

A cloud hangs over the William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow. Its future is in the balance, and likely to remain uncertain for some while yet. The London Borough of Waltham Forest, which administers this gallery — the biggest and best of its kind in local authority hands — has been forced to cut its libraries and museums' budget by about 20 per cent. Its first idea was breathtakingly simple: close down the William Morris Gallery.

This notion has since been replaced by a contradictory proposal — to run the gallery with a skeleton staff and at the same time "develop" and publicize it to its maximum potential. Since this is plainly unworkable, and since there is much more discussion and negotiation yet to come, the outlook remains obscure and far from bright. So I would urge you to get along to this remarkable gallery as soon as you can, have a good look round, and sign the petition protesting against the council's plans.

The William Morris Gallery is housed in a grand, double-bow-fronted 18th-century house that was Morris's last boyhood home. He was born just up the road, at Elm House, in what was then (1834) a pleasant village. The land around was "all flat pasture, except for a few gardens . . . the wide green sea of the Essex marshland, with the great domed line of the sky and the sun shining down in one flood of peaceful light over the long distance".

Walthamstow has since changed beyond all recognition, but Morris would still know the home from which he set out to Marlborough and then to Oxford. In this gallery created inside it, he has a fitting memorial.

This large building, with its imposing hall and staircase and airy rooms, gives ample space for a modern, uncluttered layout. There has been no attempt to re-create Morris's "home", but rather to give an introduction to his work and ideas. The informative displays are based around photographs, letters and above all the artefacts created by Morris, his colleagues and followers.

In a letter Morris breaks it to his mother that he is not going to take holy orders after all: a university education, he writes, "fits a man about as much for being a ship's captain as a pastor of souls". A display of Morris & Co furniture is accompanied by his own description: "good citizens' furniture, solid and well made in workmanship, and in design should have nothing about it that is not easily defensible". There is a picture of his wife, Jane, posing in a medieval shift, and beside it the very shift. Also the suit of armour which Morris had knocked up by an Oxford blacksmith when he was working on the Union murals: he was so taken with it he insisted on wearing it to dinner.

The marvellous display of tapestries and tiles, wallpapers and stained glass designs, carpets and ceramics, arty books and, of course, furniture — all combine to give a strong but digestible dose of the Morris aesthetic. It is at its most concentrated in a remarkable room furnished with Morris rugs and wall-hangings, an opulent settle by Webb, a Rossetti and a Burne-Jones on the walls, William de Morgan tiles galore, and furniture by Ernest Gimson and Sidney Bardsley. A feast for the eyes.

The Morris-centred material is complemented by the Brangwyn Gift, an impressive collection of paintings, sculptures and objets d'art bequeathed by the artist Frank Brangwyn. Drawing on its accumulated treasures — many of them in store at any given time — the gallery takes the story of arts and crafts up to Mackmurdo's Century Guild (eclectic and art nouveau-ish) and beyond.

There is a splendid little gallery of Pre-Raphaelite and later pictures, which would alone be worth the trip to Walthamstow. And there is at present (till March 12) a fascinating exhibition on the life and work of Karl Parsons, a stained-glass artist in the Morris tradition.

The gallery is an important research centre, and very active in the educational field. Attendance figures are respectable — about 30,000 a year — and rising, despite a lack of resources for publicity. And now its very existence is under threat. Anyone who cares about arts and crafts, with or without the capitals, must devoutly hope that the threat dissolves, and the William Morris Gallery can somehow find itself a secure future.

The William Morris Gallery, Forest Road, London E17 (01-527 5544), is open Tuesday-Saturday 10am-1pm, 2-5pm (or dusk if earlier) and the first Sunday in each month, 10am-noon, 2-5pm (or dusk). Admission free.

The Lady Methuen whose effigy was commended in the article on Corsham Court ("Proud as a peacock", November 14) was not, as stated, the present Lord Methuen's mother, but his aunt.

A day with the Snowman

OUTINGS

CHRISTMAS AT COALPORT: Using *The Snowman* as its theme, with many costumed characters on site, a family day out with carol singing, brass band, games and a supervised children's workshop. Also, Father Christmas grotto, seasonal refreshment, hot punch, mince pies, chestnuts — and a bazaar for parents. Visitors are encouraged to dress up.
Coalport China Museum, Ironbridge Gorge, Telford, Shropshire (0952 453522). Tomorrow 11am-5pm. Admission to museum adult £1.50, accompanied child free. Admission to grotto £1.

TUDORS AND TINDERBOXES: Family workshop — make a working tinderbox and prepare a winter soup from a 17th-century recipe. Readings from *The Tinderbox* for small children.
Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (01-739 8368). Today 10am-12.30pm and 2-4pm. Free.

DOLL, DOLLS' HOUSE AND MINIATURES FAIR: Wide selection of mainly modern dolls' houses, kits (period and modern), miniature furniture, fittings and dolls. Most items to 1:12 scale. Also a number of antique items.
The Brooklands Suite, Seven Hills Hotel, Cobham, Surrey. Tomorrow 11am-5pm. Adults 75p, child 40p.

MODEL RAILWAY PRE-CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS: The Gainsborough Model Railway Society's extensive gauge "O" model, based on the ex-London and Northeastern mainline railway from King's Cross to Leeds Central, can be seen by the public tomorrow and on the following Sunday. More than 50 trains represent the period from 1885 to the present day and operate on two-thirds of a mile of track.
The Clubrooms, Florence Terrace, Trinity Street, Gainsborough, Lincolnshire. Further information from Mr Pountney (0652 54657) tomorrow and December 13 1.30-5.30pm. Adults 70p, child 30p.

ALLINGTON CHRISTMAS CRAFT MARKET: Wide range of traditional crafts for sale (and some being demonstrated), including pottery, porcelain, play clocks, leather and woodcrafts, designer knitwear, dried flowers. Also a potter taking commissions for miniature replicas of your own house. Seasonal refreshment — hot punch, soup, pies. Tours of the castle, which dates back to the 13th century, now a Carmelite House and interdemoninational Christian centre.
Allington Castle, Allington near Maidstone, Kent (0622 54080). Tomorrow 11am-5pm. Admission to market adults 30p, accompanied child free. Tours, adults £1.50, child 50p.

CHRISTMAS FAIR AT STOCKWOOD PARK NURSERIES: Held in the greenhouses with many plants and Christmas trees for sale. Also stalls, sideshows, seasonal entertainment and refreshments.
Stockwood Park Nurseries, Farley Hill, Luton, Bedfordshire (0582 30237). Tomorrow 10.30am-4.30pm. Small admission charge.

NOYSE OF MINSTRELS: A SEASONAL CELEBRATION:

First of the "Winter at Snape Maltings" series of concerts with the Suffolk Schools Orchestra and the Jubilee Choir, conducted by Philip Shaw in a programme which includes Humperdink's *Overture to Hansel and Gretel*, Vaughan Williams's *In Windsor Forest* and Gordon Jacob's *Noyse of Minstrels* with carols for choir and orchestra.
Snape Maltings, Aldburgh, Suffolk. Box office (072885 3543). Tomorrow, 5pm. Tickets £2.50, £4.50, £6.50.

CRAFT FAIR: More than 70 stalls selling many craft items, demonstrations, morris dancing and other entertainment.
Pavilion Gardens, St John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire. Today 10.30am-5.30pm. Tomorrow 10am-5.30pm. Adults 60p, child 30p.

COMIC MART: For collectors and enthusiasts. Comic books, science fiction and fantasy films.
Central Hall, Westminster, London SW1. Today noon-4.30pm. Free.

A CHRISTMAS CAROL: 130 years ago, Charles Dickens gave his first dramatic public reading of *A Christmas Carol* in London, in aid of charity. In celebration of the event, Charles Peter Mugleston of the Dickens Society does likewise. Carols precede the event.
St Paul's Church, Covent Garden, London WC1. Tonight. Carols 7.30pm, reading 8-9.15pm. Tickets by programme on the door. Adults £2, child £1.

Judy Froshaug

author of

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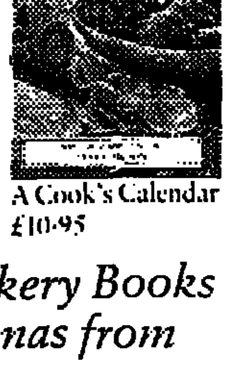

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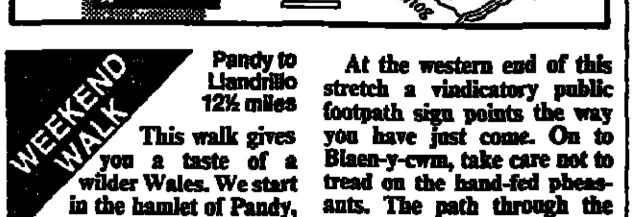


WEEKEND WALK

Pandy to Llandrillo 12½ miles

This walk gives you a taste of a wilder Wales. We start in the hamlet of Pandy, which lies a mile past Glyn Ceiriog on the B4500 (left off the A5 at Chirk). Walk past the phone box, up a track to Cam-helyg-isaf Farm, where you follow the ghost of a path which hovers half-way up the ridge overlooking the Teirw below. Check off Hafod-y-garreg, Ty'n-y-Pistyll, Ty-du and then Hen Hafod, before slipping down to the river, crossing at a footbridge half hidden by a knot of pines.

Go west on the road, passing the sportsmen about to wreck the peace with pheasant shot, taking the estate road on the left and treating the "Strictly Private" sign with a sneer.

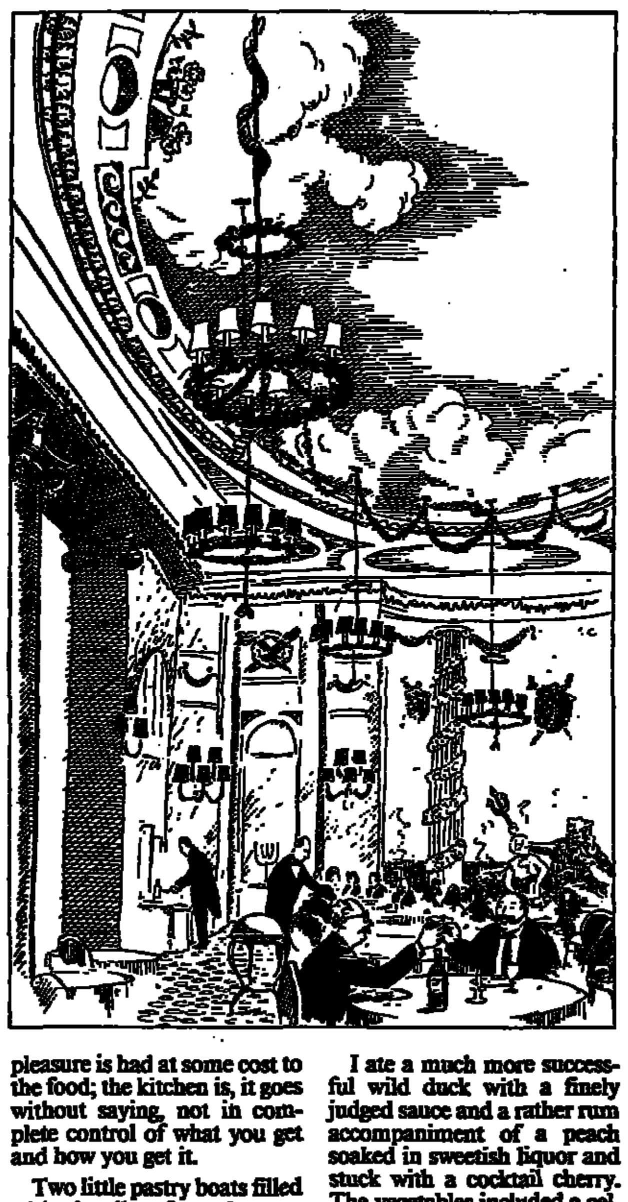
At the western end of this stretch a vindicatory public footpath sign points the way you have just come. On to Blaen-y-cwm, take care not to tread on the hand-fed pheasants. The path through the conifer wood is easy to follow — note the plastic bunting overhead. Out through the wood, taking a sharp left at Dolydd Ceiriog, and the path climbs the grouse moor, keeping the waterfalls to your left, before it plunges to a muddy valley bottom at Swch-cae-rhw. Hard right and an uphill slog as the track mounts the coldly beautiful Berwyn hills, before resting at the memorial stone which affords a panorama of the mist-strewn Dee Valley. And then it's downhill, all the way, before a cup of tea in Berwyn House, Llandrillo, and a £15 taxi ride back.

John Sweeney

EATING OUT

The cost of putting on the glitz

Jonathan Meades goes off in seach of a place for that special dinner date, but encounters delight and disappointment



The first attribute that a place requires if it is to qualify as a Special Treat is a famous name: this enables both treater and treatee to boast of their night out without actually having to explain the connotation.

Second, it should be *very obviously* luxurious — which seems to mean that it has to have been built between 1895 and 1905. Third, the service; there should be lots of it, by overdressed men. Fourth, the cooking should stay well this side of adventurous — after all, the Special Treat is a quintessentially mainstream affair and gastronomy is only a minor part of it. Fifth, it should be expensive — it's not much of a treat to go somewhere which is affordable every day even if it is much better.

The Connaught seems to fit the bill. It was built in the last half decade of the last century, it costs an arm and a leg, it's a bastion of something or other. The only misgiving I had was prompted by its culinary reputation, which is high — it might prove too *outré* for a Special Treat.

No such luck; the cooking is *ancien régime*, competent, rather heavy — it's cordon bleu dinner party grub with occasional, very occasional, nods towards a less moribund tradition. It is essentially the cooking of the day before yesterday at today's prices, and it is guaranteed not to cause aggravation to gastro-dinosaurs. Quite why the kitchen here should be so loudly lauded in most of the guide books is a mystery — maybe judgements are overcoloured by the place's reputation and by the professionalism of the staff.

The night I went, two diners were complaining vociferously about the quality of a game and vegetable chartreuse and one of our dishes had to be sent back, having been served tepid going on cold. The staff cope with complaints with well-oiled courtesy; their elaborate hierarchy is sartorially expressed; like army officers no two are dressed the same.

There are two restaurants in the hotel — the Grill, which is small and very green, and the Restaurant, where I ate. The approach to it, along a narrow passage between sideboards piled with cold hors-d'oeuvres, is delightful. The room itself is all highly polished panelling, dusty pink banquettes and chairs, and gloomy lighting.

There is a fleet of solid looking trolleys; spirit burners are dotted along the room like beacons announcing a great victory — the Japanese and American diners must feel they've penetrated to the heart of the enigma called England.

The menu, printed daily, offers a mix of French and English dishes. The wine list offers what you'd expect — a pricey inventory of claret, burgundy and port. A waiter offers aperitifs: now, you're not at this joint to worry about cash, that would mar the Special Treat — but you might as well know that one Kir and one glass of champagne add up to nearly £13.

First courses, like those that will follow, are not served on the plate. They are dished up with much show from trolleys, are served by one hand, sauced by another, all the while cooling down. There is some pleasure to be had in watching the carving and filleting, all of it done with dexterous panache — but this pleasure is had at some cost to the food; the kitchen is, it goes without saying, not in complete control of what you get and how you get it.

Two little pastry boats filled with duxelle of mushrooms and soft boiled quail eggs gained nothing from the marshalling yard exercise they were subjected to. They were, nevertheless, pretty good, and the hollandaise sauce was classically correct. Some quenelles of smoked salmon were less engaging — the well portioned mousses themselves were not the lightest things imaginable and the creamy lobster sauce was like a winter-weight blanket.

Mushroom duxelles reappeared with lamb in a pastry crust — this repetition should have been pointed out but wasn't. The dish was not a success. No matter how crisp and fine the pastry when it leaves the kitchen, it is bound to become soggy if it then spends 20 or so minutes in a "bell" on top of a flame. The effect of these outmoded devices is to *steam* the roasted meats in them and they're only for show since the kitchen has a microwave as it proved when asked to re-heat the meat. Even when heated this creation was indifferent: the meat was overdone, the duxelles over-strong, the whole thing over the top.

I ate a much more successful wild duck with a finely judged sauce and a rather rum accompaniment of a peach soaked in sweetish liquor and stuck with a cocktail cherry. The vegetables included a celeriac purée that was top notch.

After this course, the table cloth was changed. It was rather like having your hospital sheets changed while you lie in bed. Again it suggested that the flashy front of house is perhaps the great attraction here.

Sweets are OK: a perfectly sound bread and butter pudding, and a far more elaborate confection of fine biscuit, well flavoured vanilla ice-cream with a Mr Whippy texture, wild strawberries and energetically sweetened strawberry sauce. That lot, with four coffees, poor *petits fours* and a fine Gevrey Chambertin came to £126 for two — so you are certainly left in no doubt that you've had a Special Treat.

If the Connaught is a duchess, The Ritz is a chorus girl who married a duke. You understand what I mean. The place is, as Pevsner put it, "frankly Parisian". It possesses a decorative gaiety and festiveness that is quite un-English. The restaurant owes much to the spirit of Boucher and Watteau and the rococo. It is a plaster, gilt and marble invitation to hedonism. It is light fantastical and sumptuous. From it you can look out over Green Park, or at least you could if the windows weren't so filthy.

But why bother with outdoors when there is so much to recreate the eye within? It is a lovely place for a winter lunch with the sun low over the park and you with a head cold that will luckily prevent you tasting quite a bit of the food.

The kitchen, I found, tends — whether through negligence or wrongheadedness I don't know — to send out dishes that are not properly finished. Some very watery "marinated" swordfish lay on leaves that were totally innocent of dressing; a run-of-the-mill chicken liver pâté was accompanied by a julienne of peppers that were similarly naked.

Main courses comprised a leaden salmon mousse and game pie of no great distinction; still the latter was served with the most delicious mashed potatoes. The sweets go some way towards making up for what precedes them: a bread and butter pudding of a higher standard than the Connaught's and a smashing lemon tart. With aperitifs, a half of Santenay, a bottle of Rully and two kummels, the bill for two was £107.

It is one of the rare places that is worth patronizing in spite of its kitchen — there is, simply, nowhere else like it. It's probably a great spot for a spot of romance; a Special Treat to sit in so fine a room and be waited on with unhurried charm.

I guess that **The Oak Room** of Le Meridien Hotel is not in the same class as a Special Treat because the name of the place is hardly known in households throughout the land. But its dining room, contemporary with that of the Ritz, is the only one I know that can be mentioned in the same breath. I recently had the set lunch (£17.50) there.

The cooking is back to the standard it had achieved before the kitchen had a big-name French consultant foisted on it. This is a place in which the opulence of the setting is at least matched by the kitchen. Last week we ate a warm salad of wild duck, turbot in a morel sauce, a tremendous dish of partridge cooked in caul fat served with a potato and spinach galette, red cabbage and savoy cabbage.

All this preceded by an *amuse-guele* of sweetbread on a purée of what may have been watercress and followed by a pretty serious selection of cheeses. At lunchtime, sticking to the menu and drinking, say, something minor from the Rhone, two will pay £50-£55: this is a Special Treat on a budget, which of course, is not quite the point, but you can always go in for numerical inexactitude when bragging of how much it set you back.

Connaught, Carlos Place, London W1 (01-499 7070) 12.30-2.30pm and 6.30-10.15pm every day. Open throughout Christmas though booked out for both lunch and dinner on Christmas Day.

Ritz, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-493 8181) 12.30-2.30pm and 6.30-11pm every day. Open throughout Christmas.

The Oak Room, Le Meridien, Piccadilly, London W1 (01-734 8000) 12-2.30pm and 7-11pm every day. Open Christmas Day lunch. Closed Christmas Eve, and from Christmas Day evening till December 29.

CHRISTMAS EATING

Cooks who want to down tools for Christmas will have to move fast if they are to get the family into a hotel and restaurant. Many are already fully booked. Some tempting offers still available are:

LONDON

Capital Hotel, Basil Street, SW3 (01-589 5171): Four-course Christmas lunch in club-like opulence, £40.

Grosvenor House Hotel, 90 Park Lane, W1 (01-499 6363): Champagne served throughout a seven-course lunch, at an inclusive price of £91.50.

Hyatt Carlton Tower, 2 Cadogan Place, SW1 (01-235 5411): Five-course Christmas lunch in the Ballroom with Santa Claus delivering childrens' presents, £50 (children up to 10, £40); four-course menu in the Chelsea Room, £65; traditional four-course lunch in the Rib Room, £55.

Inter-Continental Hotel, 1 Hamilton Place, W1 (01-409 3131): A 10-course Christmas lunch £65 (£30 for children under 10) in Le Soufflé restaurant. The Coffee House will be serving a hot and cold buffet both at lunch and dinner, £38 for adults, £20 for children under 10.

May Fair Hotel, Stratton Street, SW1 (01-629 7777): Six-course Christmas lunch in the elegant Le Château restaurant, £45 a head, children under 12, £30.

Le Méridien, Piccadilly, W1 (01-734 8000): Christmas Day lunch in the opulent Oak Room is £65 per person for the seven-course menu, centring on *filet de Boeuf a l'ail*. In the Terrace Garden restaurant, six-course lunch at £38.

Restaurant St Quentin, 243 Brompton Road, SW3 (01-589 8005): Christmas menus in a chic, French setting cost £15 for three courses, £21 for four, lunch and evening.

St James Court Hotel, Buckingham Gate, SW1 (01-834 6655): Traditional Christmas lunches (English in the Edwardian suite, French in the Auberge de Provence) with Father Christmas handing out gifts, £40. In the evening a buffet carvery dinner in the Edwardian suite, £25.

COUNTRY

Alexander House, Turners Hill, Sussex (0343 714914 or 716333): Newly-opened country mansion hotel offers a five-course Christmas Day lunch at £45.

Horsted Place, Little Horsted, Uckfield, Sussex (0825 75581): A champagne reception followed by three-course traditional lunch (with a choice on each course) for £38.

Castle Hotel, Taunton (0823 272671): Six-course lunch which chef Gary Rhodes describes as a modern treatment of the traditional theme costs £42.50.

Mr Underhill's, Stonham, Stowmarket, Suffolk (0449 711206): Six-course lunch from one of the most adventurous country kitchens costs £30.

Michael's Nook, Grasmere, Cumbria (09665 496): Lunchtime buffet priced at £22.50 will feature stuffed boar's head and medieval game pie. Traditional Christmas dinner, champagne included, £34.

Auchterarder House, Auchterarder, Tayside (07646 2939 or 3646): Traditional Christmas with lunch or dinner £30 (overnight stay including all meals, £175 for two).

Robin Young

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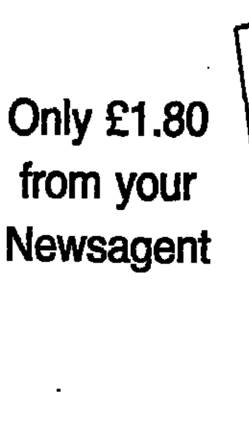

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THE TIMES COOK

From winning cooks to the custom-built Christmas bird

Frances Bissell on prize-winning cooks, delectable books, and how to choose your festive fowl

What a busy week this has been. On Tuesday I had a second chance to meet some of you who came to visit me in the new Kitchen Shop in Liberty's during the special *Times* shopping evening. Last night, I was at a rather splendid banquet at Le Méridien in London to applaud three young chefs who were achieved the distinction of *Meilleur Ouvrier de Grande Bretagne* — the highest qualification any chef can win in open competition in this country. And today I shall be cooking in a bookshop.

No, that's not a printing error. Heidi Lascelles's Books for Cooks has a small demonstration kitchen at the rear and tantalizing smells waft out into the street to entice passers-by into the warm, inviting bookshop. And if you cannot get to her shop, she will be happy to deal with your order by telephone if you want a book that you have read about. She does not do a mail order catalogue for new books, but a book token and Heidi's address and telephone number would make an excellent present for a keen cook.

In fact, this week has given me lots of ideas for Christmas presents for cooks and food lovers. A truly sybaritic pleasure for a cook is to have a delicious meal cooked by another good cook. What could be better than a meal cooked by a *Meilleur Ouvrier de Grande Bretagne*? You have the choice of Michael Aldridge, at The Connaught; Michel Peraud, at The Waterside Inn, and Anthony Worrall-Thompson, at Ménage à Trois.

They were judged yesterday by a team of chefs, under the chairmanship of Emile Lefebvre, who are members of the *Académie Culinaire de France*, including Peter Kromberg, Bernard Gaume, Richard Shepherd and Guy Mouilleron for the home team, and Paul Bocuse, Gérard Besson and Pierre Orsi for the visiting French team. So you can be sure of a memorable meal.

On a more down-to-earth note, a set of good pans is what most cooks, including me, would like. I have discarded the wooden-handled French enamelled cast iron ranges because I have gone through a surprising number of them over the years. I cook on too fierce a heat and crack the enamel and burn the handles. Copper looks nice but needs too much cleaning for me.

Instead I would go for the heaviest stainless steel there is. Eva-Trio from Denmark and Le Pentole from Italy make a handsome range, but I am not sure how comfortable the narrow gauge looped tubular handles are on the saucepans. Utterly business-like and traditional, with broad moulded handles, are the ranges made by Spring of Switzerland and Bourgeat of France. There is not much difference in price: the Spring frying pan is £39, the Bourgeat £42, whereas Le Pentole is £55. The handles of all four ranges stay cool, something to bear in mind.

Of course, the lists I should have been making this week were the Christmas food shopping lists. Between December 24 and January 4, there will not be many more than three or four shopping days. This requires careful planning to make sure you have what you want for the various family feasts or dinners for two. Perhaps the most important thing to think about at this stage, if you have not already done so, is the main Christmas meal.

Goose, a lovely rich meat, seems to have made something of a comeback this year. Some years ago, I cooked a goose at my parents' home in the north of England for Christmas. I marinated it, stuffed it and basted it. Marvellous trimmings were prepared, and it made its crisp golden appearance on the table. It was so tough that it was impossible to even cut through its leather skin. We discovered later that the goose had a very long and happy life on a Derbyshire farm. It made delicious soup, though.

Since then, I have cooked all kinds of Christmas dinners, particularly "alternative" meals of hare, venison, wild duck, pheasant and even fish. Last year, for the first time in a long time, I cooked turkey for 16 people at the home of friends in the country. It was delicious. This year I will look for the most naturally reared small turkey I can find, one that has been able to wander freely outdoors, that has had no growth promoters, and with its beak untrimmed.

These turkeys are not produced in large quantities, but The Real Meat Company has supplied a few to their shop in Bath and another butcher's in Kingston-upon-Thames. The Pure Meat Company in Moreton Hampstead in Devon supplies conservation- grade turkeys which have been raised to the standards of the Guild of Conservation to their four shops in the south west.

More than 100 turkey farmers belong to the Traditional Farm Fresh Turkey Association, which aims to give the consumer turkeys which have been "hand-reared in straw-covered open barns, dry-plucked by hand, and hung for at least seven days before evisceration". Butchers who stock turkeys raised according to this regime will display a rosette, and the birds will be identified with a gold triangle.

If even a small turkey is going to be too big for you, you might consider other options. A roast partridge would make a perfect Christmas dinner for one; a pheasant or a wild duck would feed two, and these are quite widely available. Selected Waitrose, Marks & Spencer and Sainsbury's stores have pheasant and guinea fowl, which has a good flavoured meat.

I am glad to see that Barbary duck is now more widely available, although still imported from France. Good butchers have it, or you can get them on order, and some branches of Marks & Spencer and The Market stock them. If I were cooking Christmas dinner just for two, that's certainly one of the things I would consider.

It is likely that you will have the oven on a good deal over the next few weeks. Here are some dishes to bake in it. The marzipan apples are delicious, but if you do not like marzipan, consider substituting some chopped nuts mixed with a little apricot jam or some mincemeat. The following recipe for baked onions makes a good starter but is also nice as an accompaniment to a main course. It is excellent cold.

Onions in red wine
Serves 4

- 16 to 20 small onions or 4 medium-sized onions
- 7 fl oz/200ml decent red wine
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, or a mixture of olive oil and butter
- salt, pepper
- 2 teaspoons brown sugar
- herbs, a pinch of thyme or rosemary
- chopped parsley

Butter an ovenproof dish. Put half the olive oil in a frying pan, heat it, and cook the peeled whole onions for a few minutes until lightly golden all over. Add the sugar and stir until melted. Remove the onions, and put them in the ovenproof dish. Deglaze the pan with the wine, and pour it on the onions. Season with salt, pepper and herbs. Sprinkle the remaining oil over the top of the onions. Cover with a lid or foil, and bake in a low oven gas mark 3, 170°C/325°F, for 40 minutes to one hour depending on the size of the onions.

To serve, bring the oven dish to the table, the onions sprinkled with parsley and basted with their juice, along with some crusty bread.

Marzipan apples
Serves 4

Although Bramleys are recommended for baking, I like to use dessert apples, particularly russets or Cox's. If you do not want to make your own almond paste, you may be able to find the Danish brand, in a sausage shape, which I find very good. It is pliable and almondy, unlike some of the hard dry bricks sold as marzipan.

- 4 medium-sizes apples
- 1oz/30g butter
- 3oz/85g almond paste
- cinnamon

Core the apples. Butter four individual dishes or a baking sheet. Divide the almond paste into four. Roll each piece into a thin cork-like shape, and push into the apple in place of the core. Rub the apples with a little more butter, and dust with cinnamon. Bake for 30 minutes or so in a medium oven gas mark 4, 175°C/350°F. Dessert apples will cook more quickly than cooking apples. If you put them in just before you sit down to eat, they should be ready by the time you have reached the last course. These are good served on their own, but you might like to serve them with single cream.

Gary Rhodes, the only chef based outside London who got through to the finals of the *Meilleur Ouvrier de Grande Bretagne*, brings a fine imaginative touch to the kitchens of the Castle Hotel in Taunton. We have eaten delicious food there, accompanied by exquisitely matched wines. What I like about his food is that it is not all lavish and expensive "restaurant food". Rhodes likes to use simple everyday ingredients from local suppliers and turns them into something special.

Just such a dish is his rabbit *Pithiviers*. Two rounds of light flaky pastry enclose a rich mixture of rabbit meat and the finely chopped rabbit liver, heart and kidneys. At the Castle Hotel, these are served as individual dishes. I have adapted the recipe to make it more practical for the domestic kitchen, sinced we are not all gifted pastry cooks who can deftly turn out these crisp pastry shapes like the traditional French *Pithiviers*.

Rabbit pie
Serves 4

- 1½lb/680g boneless and trimmed rabbit meat, including the liver, heart and kidneys
- 1 good pinch freshly ground nutmeg or mace
- 3 crushed juniper berries
- 2 tablespoons Cognac or other dry spirit
- salt, pepper
- 1 pint/570ml stock made from the rabbit bones
- ¾lb/340g puff, flaky or rough puff pastry
- 1 small egg yolk beaten with a little milk for glazing

Chop the rabbit very small, and place it in a bowl. Remove any fat and sinews from the rabbit offal, chop it very small, and mix it with the meat. It is important that the texture is fairly coarse as if you were making a country-style pâté and it is probably not a good idea to chop the meat in a food processor. Mix in the spices, cognac, salt and pepper, and allow it to stand for half an hour or so. Put the stock in a saucepan and reduce it by half. Remove ¼ pint/140ml to use as gravy to accompany the pie. Reduce the remaining stock until quite syrupy and allow it to cool.

Divide the pastry in half and roll out two circles to fit a traditional shallow pie plate with a flat rim, 10 inches/25.5cm diameter. Line the pie dish with pastry. Mix the syrupy stock into the meat, and fill the pie plate, mounding it slightly in the centre. Cover with the second pastry circle. Press edges together to seal the pie, then trim off the excess pastry. Cut a slit in the centre of the pie to let the steam escape. If you have the time, roll out a few pieces of pastry trimmings to make decorative shapes, such as a border of leaves to place on top of the pie. Brush all over with the egg and milk glaze, and bake in a pre-heated oven, gas mark 7, 200 C/425 F for 10 minutes, Lower the temperature to gas mark 4, 180 C/350 F and bake for 45 to 50 minutes more.

Books for Cooks, 4 Blenheim Crescent, London W11 (Tel: 01-221 1992)
Castle Hotel, Castle Green, Taunton, TA1 1NF (Tel: 0823 272671)
Real Meat Company Shop, 7 Hayes Place, Bear Flat, Bath, Avon (Tel: 0225 335139)
The Natural Foods Butchers Shop, 90 Elm Road, Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey (Tel: 01-546 1556)
The Pure Meat Company, 1, The Square, Moreton Hampstead, Devon (Tel: 0647 40321)

Stephen Markeson

As adept with shellfish as he is with rabbits: Gary Rhodes of Taunton's Castle Hotel

DRINK

Top tipples to beat the rush

With the Christmas rush already in full throttle, everyday December drinking requirements tend to be forgotten. But with 16 shopping days yet to go, I have not even started to think about what wines to serve with the festive bird. Instead, I have been attending a marathon round of supermarket, off-licence and wine warehouse tastings.

Majestic held its national press tasting in October. One of the stars at the event was Lillet, the delicious 17 per cent alcohol Bordeaux aperitif that francophiles may well have tasted before. Founded in 1872 by the Lillet brothers, the firm was revamped in 1985 with the arrival of Bruno Borie, a member of the Bordeaux wine family, and a new Bordeaux University-trained oenologist.

The company is still situated at Podensac in the Graves, and both the red and white Lillet versions continue to be based on local wine blended with what its publicity material calls "fruit liqueurs", and aged in oak barrels. Judging from the pale gold colour and delicious strong, sweet citron and mild aniseed taste of Lillet Blanc, "fruit liqueurs" is something of a misnomer. So far only the white Lillet appears to be on sale here (Majestic, £4.95). This version is best kept in the refrigerator so that a cool glass, served with a squeezed sliver of lemon or orange peel and ice, is ready whenever you want.

This winter Majestic also has two vintages of Château Méaume, an attractive Bordeaux Supérieur right bank property run by an English couple, Alan and Sue Johnson-Hill. The '85, hardly surprising given the weather pattern that year, is the better wine. With its deep purple-red colour and young, vibrant, plummy-grassy Merlot fruit it makes a good December wine, well worth its modest £3.95. However, it will be finer still in six months and while you wait, try the '84 Méaume, whose paler, more mature red hue and fine, perfumed smoky bouquet backed up by a light, fruity, attractive palate is definitely ready for drinking now. It is priced at £3.49 a bottle. A magnum, in a handsome wooden box at £9.95, makes an ideal Christmas present.

I tend to have a love-hate relationship with Sainsbury's. I know that recommending one of its wines is of far more help to the nation's wine drinkers than recommending, say, those of a small wine merchant. But finding a good Sainsbury's wine is rarely as easy as it should be. Not so at its latest tasting, however, where at least half of the 40 wines — ranging in price from £1.98 to £14.95 — were good buys.

An excellent December red Burgundy purchase from Sainsbury's is its new '85 Bourgogne Hautes-Côtes de Beaune (£5.65), whose pale purple colour, lovely, ripe Victoria plum taste and velvety texture shows all the vibrant, appealing young Pinot Noir fruit that anyone could wish for.

Watch out, too, for Sainsbury's recently published "Sensible Drinking" brochure in its "Living Today" series. It reminds us that the Royal College of Physicians recommends that women should drink no more than 14 units of alcohol a week and men no more than 21. The news is doubly unpleasant if you consider that a unit of alcohol is just eight grams and that most bottles of table wine contain as much as 10 units. The solution seems to be to drink less but to drink better.

Independent wine merchants also need support. If they were to disappear from the high street wine scene, British wine drinkers would be at the mercy of the big and mostly boring off-licence chains. I wish, however, that I lived closer to The Barnes Wine Shop, 51 Barnes High Street, London SW13 to enjoy the recommendations of James Rogers, its consultant, on a more regular basis. If I did, wines such as the amazing '85 Happ's Merlot from Erland Happ's Margaret River Estate in Western Australia, with its deep purple-black colour and luscious, ripe concentrated, almost plum liqueur taste, would be on my table more often (£8.50). So would one of the finest Chianti Classico Riservas I have ever tasted — the '82 "Fizzano" from Rocca delle Macie, whose very fine roses and violets scent is backed up by a superb cedary-spicy palate with masses of fruit. What a December treat!

Jane MacQuitty

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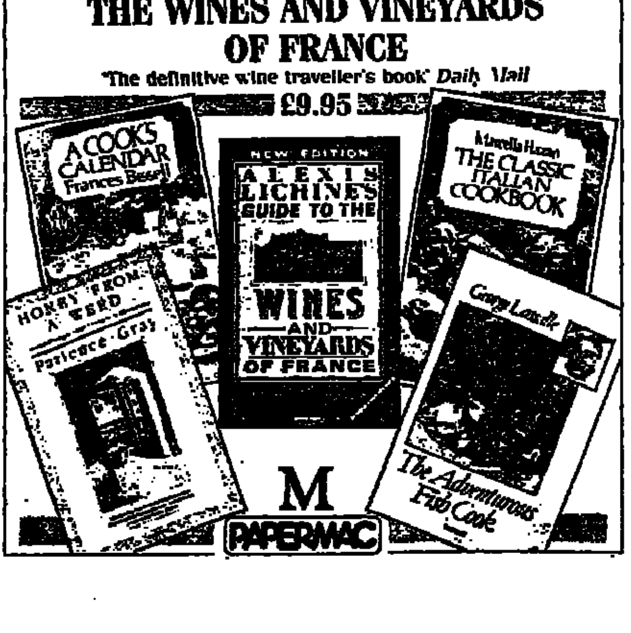
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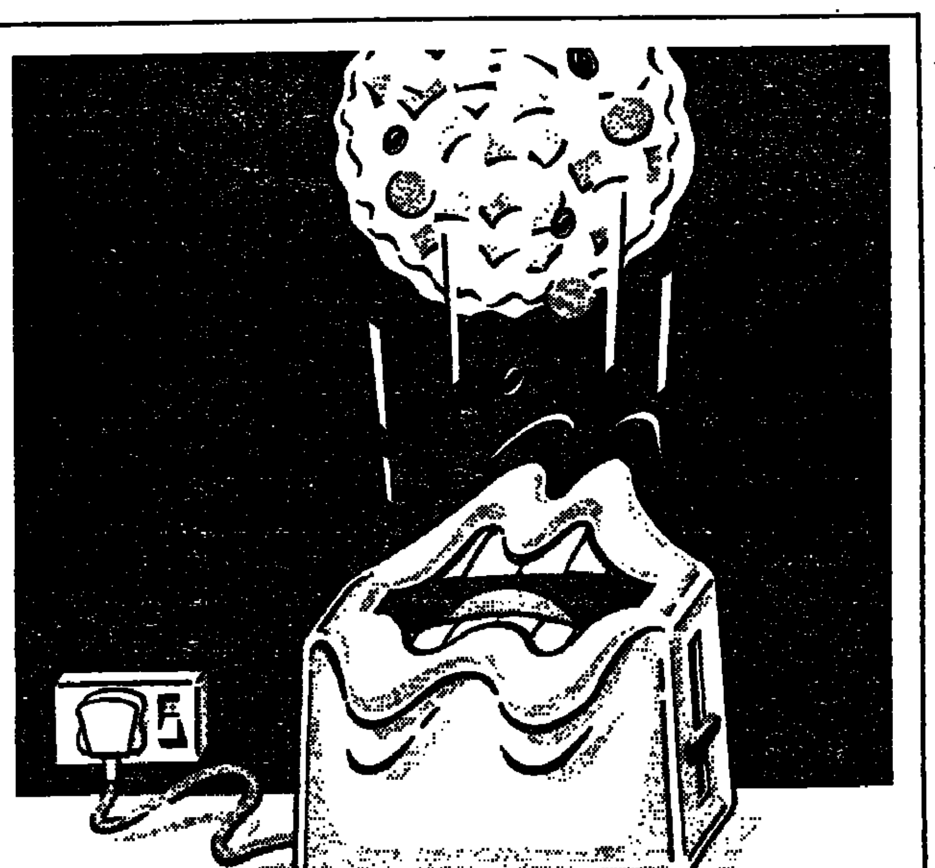

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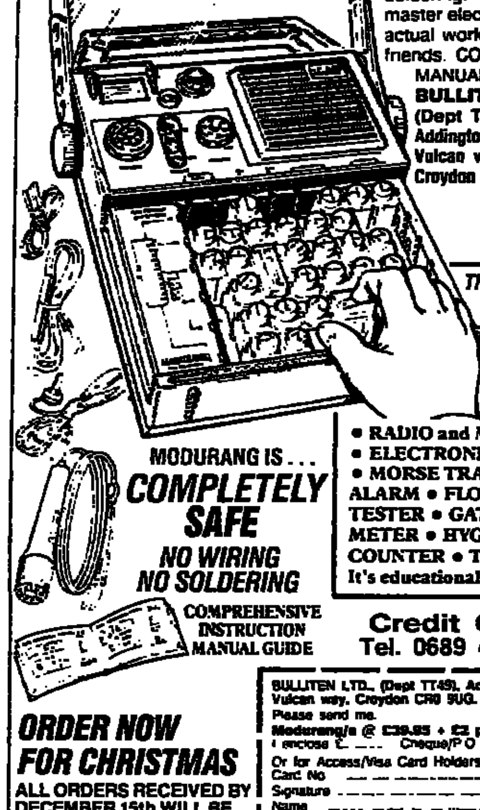
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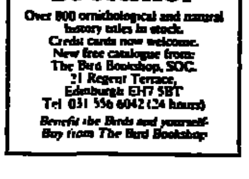

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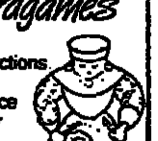

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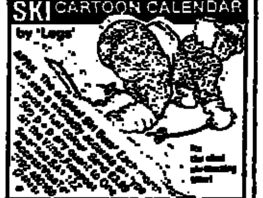

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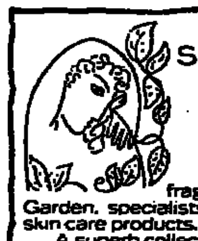

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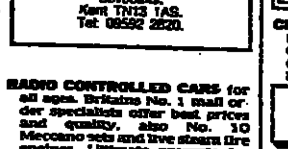

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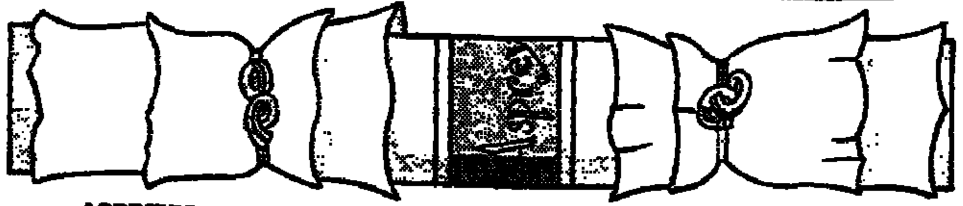
CHRISTMAS GIFTS ALSO APPEAR ON PAGE 12

هكذا مع الأهل

SHOPPING

Loads of snap, cracker and pop!

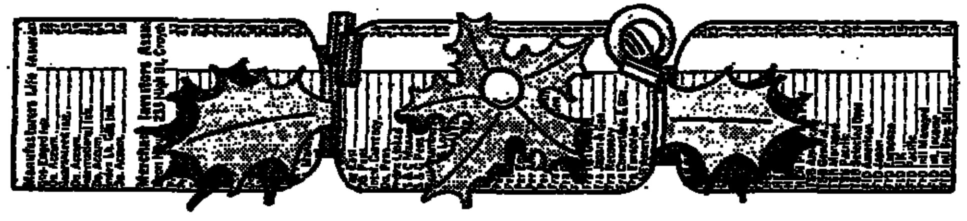
You can't judge a Christmas cracker by its cover or its price, says Victoria McKee, as the *Nutcracker* principals help her put a few through their paces



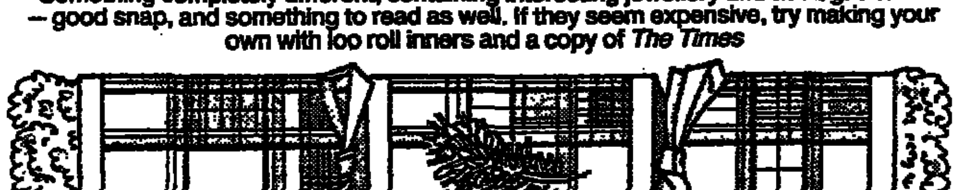
ASPREY'S The ultimate treat. Box of 12 "Surprise crackers" – six gold for gentlemen, six white for ladies – costs £500; one box in 10 contains a cracker with an 18 carat gold and diamond ring worth £800. Or fill one with the gift of your choice from a trinket (£40 for a set of six silver duck placecard holders) to a diamond ring

TIFFANY'S The other great luxury cracker – this time in red crêpe paper with a green band. Cracking to open, particularly if it contains the latest gimmick: a Tiffany keyring for £25 engraved with the name of your choice or personal identification, and the words "Return to Tiffany's". The store will then return it to its owner

SAINSBURY'S Luxury crackers £11.75 for six, in distinctive green holly design with pretty holly and pine cone decoration. Very festive looking and contain excellently substantial prizes – games of dice and gold chains in velour pouches together with the *de rigueur* hat and motto. And they pop well!



GREY GOOSE Newspaper crackers, £25.50 for six from independent gift shops. Something completely different, containing interesting jewellery and adult gift items – good snap, and something to read as well. If they seem expensive, try making your own with loo roll inners and a copy of *The Times*



LIBERTY'S Tartan cracker in distinctive plaid and red lace contains sandalwood shampoo and sandalwood soap, and instructions on how to remove without destroying the souvenir cracker; £6.95 each (there is also a floral pot pourri cracker, more feminine but of the same ilk, for £7.50)

Illustrations by JOYCE MACDONALD

Christmas crackers are so quintessentially British that other countries can't even muster a word for them.

They were introduced in the 1840s by the enterprising Tom Smith, inspired by the paper-wrapped sugared almonds he had seen on the Continent, and coincided nicely with the Victorian commercialization of Christmas. The "crack" came later – sparked off by the sound of a Yule log crackling in the fire.

But all too often these days crackers don't live up to their gaudy promise – the novelties aren't novel and the jokes are stale. And although both are intended as a rough indication of quality, you cannot judge a cracker by its cover or its price tag.

The manufacturers have tried to create a year-round market for crackers, infiltrating other celebrations undercover, so to speak, in plain, non-Christmas wrappers. I snap them up early in the January sales, between Christmas and New Year, to use on New Year's Eve and for my children's birthday parties. The cut-price Dangermouse crackers we bought from a House of Fraser store last year made other favours and expensive party hats superfluous: each child went home clutching a substantial toy or game from the cracker. The He-Man crackers, on the other hand, which cost a whacking £8.99, were an embarrassment: the only "prize" was a tiny transfer and they didn't even snap.

On a serious consumer note, Sainsbury's recently had to withdraw a whole range of "Party Time" crackers after a small child came to harm from swallowing something in one of them. Most crackers now carry the warning "Some contents may be unsuitable for children under the age of three", and advise you to pull them well away from the face.

You can buy crackers for any price from about £1.25 for ten tiny ones (Boots) to thousands of pounds – if they come from Asprey's and contain a diamond ring. Harrods has exclusive crackers costing up to £110 for six and co-ordinating with your table setting; a technophile's collection at £100 for six containing pocket radios, mini alarm clocks and calculators; and the daring "Royal Assortment" at £55.50 for 10 with satin panties. Delahaye Champagnes (3 *Hagley Hall Mews*, Hagley, Stourbridge, West Midlands, 0562 886913) does quarter bottles of champagne in crackers for £11.99 each: the catch is that you have to order a whole case of 48. Clever cosmetic companies offer gift crackers containing their products; Czech & Speake colognes are available in masculine and feminine looking crackers for £9.95 from Liberty.

With the stylish assistance of four of the principal dancers from the London Festival Ballet's stunning production of *The Nutcracker Suite*, which opens on December 26 at the Festival Hall, we tested a wide selection of crackers. The five we recommend most highly are shown in detail on the left. In addition, we liked Marks & Spencer's basic crackers, six for £5.99, and not noticeably different from their Nostalgia luxury range. They crack louder and seem to contain the same basic gifts – keychains, mini sewing kits, pocket lights etc – as well as coming in a clever box with games and the history of crackers on the back. Boots luxury crackers, £7.50 for six, have pastel stripes on silver backing and could be used for birthdays. They contain miniature tool kits and other serious items, but lack snap. Asda "Regency" crackers, £10.99 for six, give off a great bang and produce some very substantial gifts – but the huge handkerchief was burnt from the force of the bang!

John Rogers

Pulling their weight: the Cavalier and the Sugar Plum Fairy (Paul Chalmer and Andria Hall) with, seated, Tanya and the Nutcracker Prince (Karen Gee and Patrick Armand). Wooden Russian nutcracker soldier, £14.95 from Harvey Nichols

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Shopping in the Christmas spirit

Surviving the annual Christmas shopping jamboree calls for strategic planning of almost military precision. Far better to compile lists in comfort at home than slog round London's stores and specialist shops *desperately* seeking inspiration.

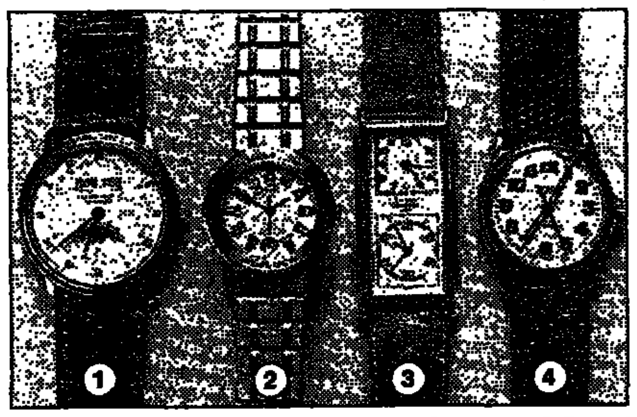
Try pruning down the number of places you shall need to visit by grouping friends and family into categories. Then head for specific shops where you can be fairly sure of finding presents to please.

Personal accessories such as watches or jewellery make pleasingly intimate presents. The Watch Gallery has a wide selection of unusual and well-designed watches in all price brackets. Garrard stocks the cream of top-range models such as Blancpain, while Thomas Kettle has a good choice of vintage styles, including Rolex watches for men and women. Liberty stocks Cobra & Bellamy's stylish modern jewellery and Monty Don has this season's favourite diamante animal and heraldry designs.

Bathroom treats always prove popular and Jermyn Street is a central place to track these down. Czech & Speake selling bath oils and soaps in upbeat packaging; Floris has more traditional, pleasantly nostalgic offerings.

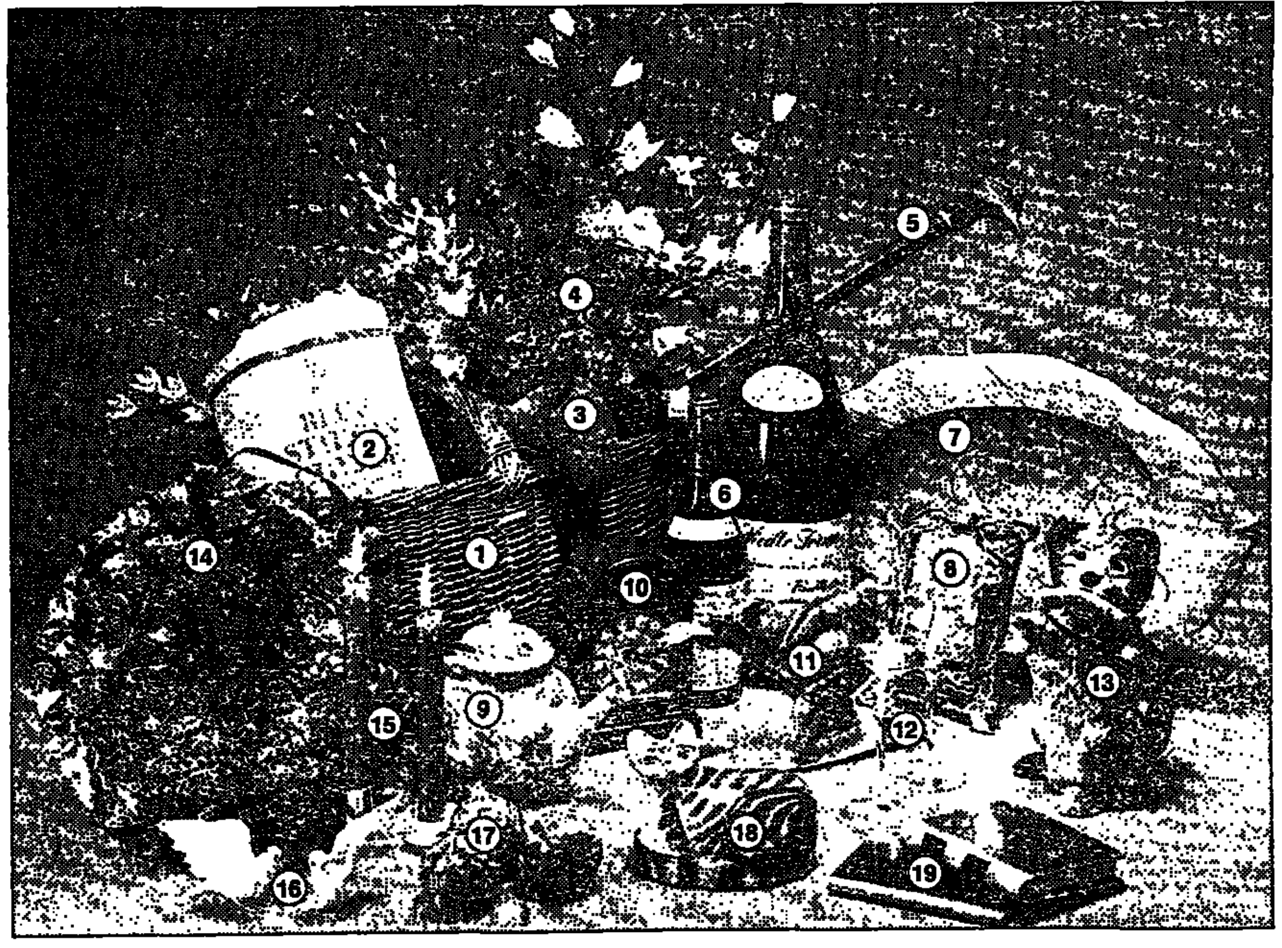
As far as edibles are concerned, Jeroboams stocks a wide and unusual selection of cheese and wine and Hobbs in South Audley street is also an excellent source of Yuletide treats. Whittards, which has a department in the new Conran Shop in Fulham Road's Michelin Building, sells speciality teas and coffees, while Heal's is good for delightfully packaged nibbles and chocolates.

Desk toys make appealing presents for executives of all ages. Inessential and more practical accessories can be chosen at London's top style shops such as Oggetti, F.FWD (Fast Forward), Authentics, Brats and Astrohome.



Above: 1 Blancpain Moonphase, £3,950, Garrard, 112 Regent Street, W1; 2 Corum Admirals Cup watch, £4,481.50, 3 Emerich Meerson Doctor's watch, £329, both from The Watch Gallery, 129 Fulham Road, SW3; 4 1934 vintage gold phase Rolex Oyster, £525, Thomas Kettle, 53a Neal Street, WC2

Charles Milligan



Right: 1 Wicker basket with tartan cover, £30, General Trading Company, 144 Sloane Street, SW1; 2 whole Stilton, 15lb, £35, Jeroboams, 24 Bute Street, SW7; 3 donkey, £15.50, Conran Shop, Michelin Building, 81 Fulham Road, SW3; 4 silk and feather flowers, from 70p, Neal Street East, 5-7 Neal Street, WC2; 5 duck-headed stick, £26.95, Liberty, Regent Street, W1. 6 Henri Maire Arbois Blanc, £5.85, La Vieille Ferme Côtes du Ventoux jeroboam, £28.70, both from Jeroboams; 7 Balinese wooden fish platter, £18.40, Neal Street East; 8 Art Nouveau-style picture frame, £5.99, Coloroll, 156 Regent Street, W1; 9 Bridgewater chintz rose teapot, £25, The Tea House, 15a Neal Street, WC2; 10 clock, £44.99, Coloroll; Balinese wood surfing frog, £22.90, Neal Street East; 12 glasses, £9.50 each, Conran Shop; 13 dog teapot, £25, The Tea House. 14 Wreath, £30, from Flowersmith, 34 Shelton Street, WC2; 15 candles, 65p each, white circular candle holder, £5.90 per pair, silver holder, £380 per pair, Liberty; 16 feather doves, 75p each, Neal Street East; 17 tree decorations, £1.15 each, Joanna Wood, 48a Pimlico Road, SW1; 18 papier mâché cat box, £14.95, Neal Street East; 19 diary, £117, address book, £44.50, Smythson, 54 New Bond Street, W1

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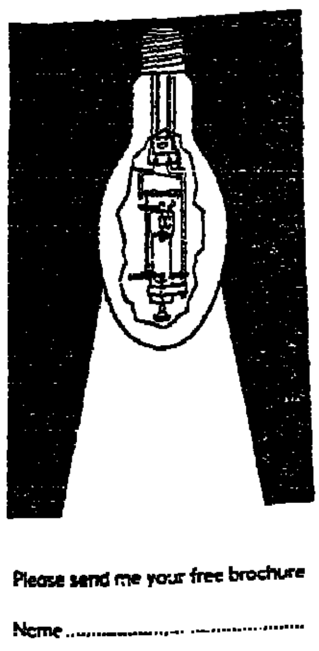

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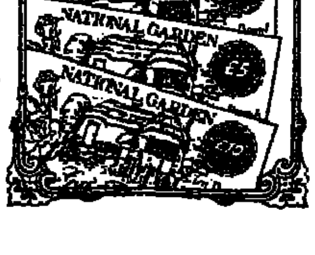

IN THE GARDEN

Presents with flower power

Francesca Greenoak has some Christmas gift ideas for gardening enthusiasts

Choosing a plant as a present can be tricky: if it's not wrong for the soil, it's the one kind of plant the receiver loathes or else it brings them out in a rash. On the other hand, a good choice brings enormous pleasure – and sometimes an introduction to plants one would not have chosen for oneself, as I discovered when someone gave me the little rose, Pink Bells. Not at all my kind of plant, I thought grumpily, but it bloomed prettily all summer and I came to like it very much.

There are some lovely pot cyclamen with flower colours from white to purple (requiring only regular watering to keep the compost moist but not sodden). Azaleas and *Christmas cacti* are also coming into flower and some garden centres will have orchids on sale as house plants (Cmbidium hybrids and Phalaenopsis are relatively simple to look after).

It is important to remember with all pot plants that they have enjoyed ideal growing conditions, and need to be acclimatized gently to household living.

Plants in flower have immediate appeal but real gardeners will not mind if your gift of a rose or clematis looks a bit scruffy now, knowing that the future will bring fulfilment. Bush and climbing roses are the best buys this year, but try to fit your present to what you know of the recipient's garden – don't buy a great ramping climber such as Kiftsgate for a tiny space.

One of the nicest gifts is a fruit tree. December is a good time to buy them bare rooted (but put them in a pot of earth, covering the roots, to store and transport them). Even smallish gardens can accommodate a medlar, quince or damson, and if your friends are among the increasing ranks of conservatory-dwellers, try fragrant flowered kumquats or orange trees in tubs. Giving a selection of seeds can give pleasure out of all proportion to the size and expense of the present.

Still uncertain? Then get the horticultural equivalent of a book token. National Garden Gift Tokens are available at most garden centres (telephone the Horticultural Trades Association on 0734 303998 for stockists). They are accepted also by Interflora Shops.

Gardening books: There is a spectacularly good crop this year. For a rare combination of good reading, practical gardening and excellent illustration I put *Success with Unusual Plants*, by James Compton (Collins, £12.95) first on the list, closely followed by *Garden Plants for Connoisseurs* (Unwin/Hyman, £14.95), by Roy Lancaster. Mary Keen's intelligent and informative *Garden Border Book* (Viking, £14.95), with its combination of photographs and planting plans, is a key work.

For gardening daydreamers *English Water Gardens by* Cooper, Taylor and Boursnell (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10.95) and *The Country House Garden* (Pavilion/Michael Joseph, £17.95) by Jackson Stops/Pipkin provide a glimpse of sumptuous garden landscaping. If you fancy trying garden design for yourself, choose John Brookes's useful introduction, *The Country Garden* (Dorling Kindersley, £16.95), or *A Small Garden Designer's Handbook*, by Roy Strong (Conran Octopus, £12.95).

Geoffrey Hamilton's *Successful Organic Gardening* (Dorling Kindersley, £16.95) is simple, clear and colourful. Ursula Buchan's *Pleasures of Gardening* (Dent, £12.95) is for reading rather than reference and a helpful introduction to any beginner.

Luxury: Foliage plants look extra special in the Italian moulded cache-pots with flowers painted around the rims (Liberty, £19.50 and £47.50). Victorian Lace (tel: 04868 20366) has a range of beautiful decorative cast railings from £50 per metre length and elegant filigree gazebos (from £2,500).

WEEKEND TIPS

- This is the time for border cleaning up but don't overdo it, dead stems can give protection to the plant, and harbour predators as well as pests.
- Protect recently rooted cuttings of heathers and other shrubs with a frame.
- Bay in tubs is not hardy and needs to be brought into a sheltered place, pots grown lemon verbena trees can take frost but must be kept in dry place out of the wind.
- Clear dead and dying leaves from alpine plants and protect if necessary from rain.
- Give all tools (especially secateurs) a wipe with an oily rag after use.

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First shots

Real marksmen somewhere have 60,000 powerful rifles which were diverted between India and Britain in the course of an arms deal. This factual revelation from Channel Four's *Despatches: Gunning for Government* made the fictional dilemma of *The Marksman* (BBC1) slightly less compelling in last night's television than it might otherwise have been. And whereas this new thriller's marksman — played by David Threlfall with all the expressiveness of a Highgate Cemetery statue — looks from his bronzed face with rigid lips and narrow eyes every inch a suspicious character, real arms importer Frank Turner was the soul of charm.

TELEVISION

He has decided to reveal all, it seems, because his arms import business went far enough out of control as to involve him in arrest, trial, and ruin. How far this was due to the activities of his business partner and how far to the malpractices described in the film, it was hard to judge. While *Despatches* did an excellent job of exposing the questions and fleshing out the background, it did not provide anything like all the answers.

BBC 1's fictional marksman knows exactly what he is after: the murderers of his ten-year-old son. Which is doubtless supposed to make the whole nasty business justifiable and to turn designer violence into Greek revenge tragedy. But Don Weaver, who hails "from a long line of half-Scottish religious maniacs", moves in seedy circles where the question is not how many people you dispose of and how much it costs but — as his girl-to-be casually inquires — "does he still do the violence?" That is real crime, not the Florida computer fraud he has been involved with.

He said so little in this first episode it was difficult to do more than flinch from the staring of eyes. Much the best scenes so far have come from the grandfather Doyle (James Ellis), soaking up the whisky while listening to Palestrina, in his second-hand bookshop partnership with Brown (Richard Griffiths).

William Holmes

Bohemian boy still

George Melly, who makes his annual return to London's best-known jazz club next week, tells **Alan Franks** why he gave up the raver's life

Stephen Markeson

George Melly: "On stage I'm raunchy and I know how to strut my stuff"

George Melly's second stab at youth is progressing nicely; unruliness is all that is missing. As is amply chronicled, he chucked in the day job as a newspaper critic ("I was getting too respectable") when he was well into the comfortable folds of middle age, and reverted to singing jazz. The result today is a sort of *vieillesse dorée*.

Less well known is the debt he owes, and acknowledges, to John Chilton for this measured resurgence. Chilton is the man who leads the four-piece backing band, the Feetwarmers, and who has become for Melly an accompanist far beyond the call of musical duty.

Some of the stories of the not so distant past are frightful, and a good many of them have to do with drink — half-remembered gigs, unscripted episodes on stage and contrite post mortems the morning after. "The captain is no longer in command of the ship" was one of Chilton's more diplomatic announcements as Melly one night fell to the deck, flag-like, down the microphone stand.

It was Chilton who helped to keep him in order, to lower the hell-raising when the moment came to quit the pubs where "the band was even drunker than the customers" and get back on the road. Considering everything, Melly looks in remarkably fine fettle. The suits are still way over the top, even though they defy you to say so, and the eyes still seem designed with a view to making irresponsible suggestions. But one has the impression that, rather like the late Sophie Tucker, he is quietly taking rather good care of himself.

"People cherish their illusions," he says. "They want to see the young raver of the 1950s. I think this is particularly true of the middle-aged ones in the audience. It is almost as though they want to have a piece of their past returned to them — the wild, dangerous piece which they have had to let go — and are hoping that I can be the medium.

"On stage, I pretend that I am still doing it. I'm raunchy, and I know how to strut my stuff. I certainly went through some times of colossal excess, but you see I didn't carry my romanticism to the point of an early grave as did, say, Piaf, or Janis Joplin and many another. I suppose what happened was that my own middle-class background came and reclaimed me before it was too late. Now I'm harvesting that caution, and enjoying myself in the process. The English really are great gerontophiles I think; they love to see someone going on for ever."

Two people in particular — one of them Chilton and the other an unnamed lady friend — have been vital to that longevity. "She just said to me one day: 'What do you want to be? Someone who amuses people because he's drunk, or someone who wants to be taken seriously for what he can do as an artist?' Well, I decided on the second and yes, I do now think of myself as a serious jazz singer.

"The act is very carefully balanced. John is an exceptionally astute observer, and he keeps a record of what I've done at which concerts — not just the songs, but the jokes and the stories as well — so that we don't give audiences all the same things that they've seen before. He takes the view that the tunes themselves may bear hearing over and over again, but not the jokes.

"I don't think he's sufficiently credited with this, but he is an extraordinarily diligent jazz historian and author. He's just written what must be *the* book on Sidney Bechet. The great difference between him and other writers is that he doesn't simply rely on existing books; he carries out all his own research in great detail, sending off to the States for copies of birth certificates and marriage certificates and things like that."

The mixture at Ronnie Scott's Club, where he opens his 14th Christmas and New Year season on Monday, will be roughly the same as before — a core of 1920s blues and vaudeville numbers, with Melly's three foremost influences (Bessie Smith, Fats Waller and Jelly Roll Morton) strongly represented; life-devouring stuff side by side with expressions of downright dejection. There is, he says, a tremendous amount of unrevived material still skulking in the Library of Congress Collection, and in Chilton's own huge stock of old albums.

It has always seemed odd that Melly, impeccably middle-class, public school, intellectual, arty and articulate, is driven by these bohemian urges; it must be some sort of *nostalgie de la boue*. "Quite possibly. Except that these days, *La Boue* is a three-star hotel, even four-star . . . I wouldn't have missed those early days for the world, coming to London as I did, and then sort of imposing myself on bands. They were terrific times we had with the Mick Mulligan Band. Hard, hard drinking and squalid digs, but absolutely no regrets."

The fastidiousness still comes as a surprise. As he speaks, his hands busy themselves with the things on the table in front of him — a paperback, a tobacco tin, cigarette papers, a lighter — until he has arranged them all into a pattern of perfect right-angles. "Don't ask me why. Obsessively tidy. I always have been. I lay everything out like a still life." Which again is strange for someone so in love with a music that is, emotionally at least, in constant disarray.

"I am very moved by art which has to do with instinct. I think the wonderful thing about jazz is that within it you can find a fusion of intellect and emotion . . . a Morton on the one hand and an Armstrong on the other. Perhaps I suppress a lot myself. Not as a performer, but as an individual. Life is lived on that knife-edge between the head and the heart, and I think I have more of the first than the second. I would have liked it to be the other way round, but I didn't have the choice."

Inspired acting

THEATRE

Twelfth Night
Riverside

Donald Cooper

Richard Briers: perfection

Kenneth Branagh's production of *Twelfth Night* is not unlike a Christmas pudding, full of good things, often in unexpected places. The Christmas connection goes further; the designer, Bunny Christie, takes the play's title, for once, at face value and gives us, spread across one of the widest stages I have ever seen, a charming winter garden, frequent snowfalls, fur-lined coats and even a tongue-in-cheek Christmas tree (justifying its existence during the gulling of Malvolio). The total effect is perhaps closer to Vienna than the more southerly Illyria of geography. There is a touch (not inappropriate — mistaken identity at masked revelry) of *Die Fledermaus* about the proceedings, underlined by the late 19th century costumes (very much the rage in Shakespearean productions these days.) If it all sounds too smugly seasonal, it is saved by the fitting ambiguity of the garden, which is also a snow bound cemetery.

Now for the plums (and the silver sixpences). Richard Briers' Malvolio is, I believe, one of the greatest pieces of comic acting you could ever hope to see. With his tombstone jaw and long sideburns he looks like the later Matthew Arnold, but the would-be *gravitas* is wonderfully undercut by his fussy strut and the pinched, peevish disdain dispensed from his thin, pecking nose. This combination of a Victorian sage and a scrawny old turkey is funny enough, but when you add Briers' inspired timing (some of the pauses are quite breathtaking) and the kind of smile which really does merit incarceration, a stitch is a small price to pay. I take back the "comic" I wrote just now. For locked up in darkness, insisting on his sanity, Briers' Malvolio is no longer laughable. And when he is released, in a stunning and totally justified *coup de théâtre*, as an old, tired man, befouled as well as abused, we know that his revenge will be implacable.

Nearly as remarkable as Briers' Malvolio is Anton Lesser's off-beat, disturbing Feste. Lesser plays the clown as a wild gypsy with long unkempt hair and a carpet-bag of belongings, a kind of metaphysical Autolycus. He is more a bitter than a bitter sweet fool: behind his corruption of language you glimpse the frightening perspective of nihilism. It is just a shame that he has to sing his songs to generally mushy, soft-centred music (by Paul MacCartney and Pat Doyle).

Two silver sixpences are uncovered in James Simmons' Aguecheek and Christopher Hollis's Sebastian. The former, of course, is the kind of upper class twit which our great public schools used to produce in the days before Common Entrance, but Simmons keeps such an impeccably long and straight face throughout that Aguecheek's stupidity acquires an almost heroic quality. Christopher Hollis, on the other hand, uses a very natural freedom of expression to mine unsuspected depths of emotion from one of the plays least promising parts.

The two main women characters are, surprisingly, something of a disappointment. Frances Barber's Olivia is more impressive physically than vocally, whereas Caroline Langrishe's Viola is the opposite, showing impressive control of the verse in the poetic set-pieces but elsewhere over inclined to smirk. These two alone in a fine cast seem afraid to give in to the love-madness, often dark and frightening, which reigns over Shakespeare's ultimate comedy.

Harry Eyres

Junkyard dreams

J.G.Ballard previews a television profile of a sculptor who takes the 20th century on its own technological terms

A woman friend describing Eduardo Paolozzi said: "He's a Minotaur." I thought this accurate: a bull's head, powerful physique, a lot of snorting, one hoof clawing the ground, eyes ready to attack anybody who's a little too light on his feet. But also that maze. It seems to me that Eduardo Paolozzi is the most important sculptor to have emerged since the Second World War and the only one who responds directly to science and technology, to the media landscape which has constructed the huge maze that we all inhabit.

I have known him for something like 20 years and his mind is as sharp and as free of conventional thinking as it was when I first met him.

I knew, of course, his sculpture, which I had seen in exhibitions long before I met him, particularly his very early sculptures, those standing figures, apparently sprung from the psyche of some technological Frankenstein. What was so impressive about those early sculptures was that they were built out of the most commonplace machine parts: cog wheels, bits of radiator grills — all the detritus that one might see in a scrapyard.

In fact Paolozzi has always been intensely interested in junk, in the debris of the technological civilisation. In his later work, he moved not only within the realms of sculpture but into the graphic arts — above all in his screenprints, where he began to tackle head-on the ambiguities that surround the images of technology that are presented to us by the world of advertising.

To a large extent we have to believe the advertisers, and Eduardo is almost alone in trying to look at the world created by modern technology in something like the way in which Freud approached the dream. There is a manifest content: all the things that a new refrigerator will do for your sex life, but there's also the latent content, the secret alphabet that spells out the real meaning of the world of technology.

Do we take the mid-20th century on its own terms? In all his work it seems to me that Eduardo Paolozzi has tried to provide an answer to this, both to the hard core of the world of technology, as in his early sculpture, and to the media landscape that has created the sky whose air we breathe. He's completely free of cant. He approaches everything with an open mind, an eye to trying to understand the latent meanings.

There is a lot of humour in his work, as you can see in the murals that he designed for Tottenham Court Road station and in his screenprints.

The juxtapositions in the latter of Mickey Mouse, soft-drink commercials, thermonuclear weapon systems, symbols taken from textbooks of heart surgery and advertisements for expensive watches suggest a constant search for the real meanings that lie behind the flux of images, what McLuhan called the "high-speed information mosaics" that flow past us.

If the entire 20th century were to vanish in some huge calamity, it would be possible to re-constitute a large part of it from his sculpture and screenprints.

● E.P.— Sculptor *can be seen on Channel 4 on Sunday at 8.45pm.*

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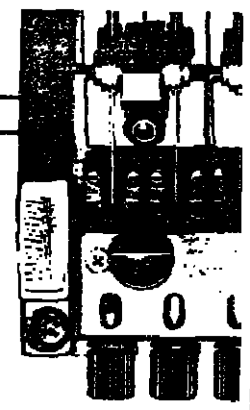

Golden oldies in New York

GALLERIES

Zurbaran/ Suleyman the Magnificent
Metropolitan Museum

Charles Demuth
Whitney Musem

Color by the Yard/ Surprise! Surprise!/ Joseph Urban
Cooper-Hewitt Museum

"Poster Portrait: Dove",1924, by Charles Demuth from the show at the Whitney Museum

As so often in New York of recent years, the Fall and Winter season has opened to somewhat dispiriting effect as far as brand-new art is concerned, but with a mind-boggling series of triumphs on the art-historical front. If SoHo lofts are as unenterprising or just plain silly as Madison and 57th Street galleries these days, at least one can always take refuge in the Metropolitan to lick one's wounds in comfort.

The Metropolitan, indeed, is this year excelling itself in the ambition and diversity of its major exhibitions. The two biggest, **Zurbaran** (until December 13) and **The Age of Sultan Suleyman the Magnificent** (until January 17) would in themselves be enough to keep most museums busy for half a year or more; when you add **American Paradise: the World of the Hudson River School** (until January 3), **The American Art Poster of the 1890s** (until January 10) and **Triumphs of American Silvermaking: Tiffany and Co 1860-1900** (until January 10), as well as several lesser shows and new permanent displays, the array is unbeatable.

Zurbaran is probably the most revelatory. In the last few years we have had ("we" being alas the world at large, not in most cases specifically Britain) major survey shows of such greats of Spanish art as Goya, El Greco and Murillo, and it was more than time for Zurbaran to be added to their number, as he now is in grand style through a collaboration between the Metropolitan and the French National Museums: after its New York showing the Zurbaran will move to the Grand Palais, while the Metropolitan gets in exchange the Fragonard show which is at the Grand Palais now. Everyone is agreed that Zurbaran is one of the greatest of Spanish painters, but we have rarely had a chance to confirm this received opinion with a major retrospective.

What the present show reveals is a weird combination of dazzling originality and formal invention with — at apparently just the same times in Zurbaran's career — a curiously retrograde attitude and technical maladroitness which make the work look quite primitive. When Zurbaran is good he is absolutely stunning. Surely no one has ever used white in paintings with such loving skill and drama. And the emotional impact of a painting like "Saint Serapion", where the heaviness of the sagging body is almost palpable and the composition of a boldness and confidence which would be hard to rival, comes absolutely direct across the centuries. Then there is the exquisite formality of his gorgeously attired series of female saints with their traditional attributes. And right next door you have plodding and uncomfortable paintings like "The Annunciation" or "The Apotheosis of Saint Jerome". Failure of inspiration? Over-use of fumbling assistants? Who can say? But it is certainly one of art's great enigmas.

The *Suleyman the Magnificent* show has just been announced for the British Museum early next year, so I shall leave detailed consideration until then, though I may observe right now that it is a wonderful treat, displaying for us some of the most splendid textiles, exquisite calligraphy and sumptuous ceramics ever to come from the hand of man.

The Cooper-Hewitt Museum is chock-a-block with shows illustrating different aspects of art and design in America and the world. Sometimes it takes the opportunity to show off its own unrivalled riches: as the American posters show comes entirely from the Metropolitan's own collection, so most of **Color by the Yard: Printed Fabric 1760-1860** (until March 13) is to be found in-house. But how amazing that in many cases the Cooper-Hewitt has the original design, a finely preserved (often mint) example of the first printing, and a whole back-up selection of copies, variations and outright piracies. The lively history of pop-up books, **Surprise! Surprise!** (until February 21) takes us from Renaissance dimensional plans of the heavens through cheeky Victorian ingenuity and up to the latest products of modern printing technology on the one hand, contemporary artist's book-making on the other.

Even more timely is the show **Vienna/New York** (until March 6), devoted to Ziegfeld's star designer Joseph Urban. Urban was a character of many and diverse talents: a skilful architect in the deco manner, responsible for several of the most influential new theatre buildings in Twenties America, he was also a prolific and colourful stage designer and an important interior decorator.

Another long-awaited show (or one that certainly should have been long-awaited) is the **Charles Demuth** retrospective at the Whitney Museum until January 17. Demuth was the most talented and original of the precisionist painters who found cubist patterns of form and volume ready-made in the urban and industrial landscapes of Twenties America. He was also one of the best and most dedicated of flower-painters, finding a very fleshly sensuality in petal and stamen, an extraordinarily bold and original precursor of Pop Art in his "Poster Portraits" of other artists, with their confident incorporation of words and figures along with the popular icons of the time, and also an effective, if haunted, illustrator. This show gives us as well an unequalled chance to observe his quality as a directly erotic artist, exhibiting and illustrating (often for the first time) his spirited images of gay bars and bathhouses, of sailors disporting themselves in a variety of fashions. Strong stuff for 1930, and still show-stopping today.

John Russell Taylor

Party pieces shine

CONCERTS

CBSO/Rattle
Town Hall, Birmingham

Perhaps this was an example of atonal programming, an evening that made Schoenberg's *Five Pieces* the first item in a larger handful of dissimilar and highly individual offerings: Mahler's Rückert songs, Brahms's *Alto Rhapsody*, Nielsen's *Pan and Syrinx* and the suite from Shostakovich's ballet *The Age of Gold* were all to follow. Or perhaps we were just hearing three of Simon Rattle's party pieces around two of Dame Janet Baker's. But whatever the cause, the effect was another concert to demonstrate the fullness and the mindfulness of music-making in Birmingham: the CBSO under Mr Rattle can make a splendid noise, as they did here in the outrageous early Shostakovich dances, but the fact that they play so well together also goes on being a source of great pleasure.

This closeness of ensemble was valuable in the Schoenberg, quite as much as the richness and extravagance of sheer sound. One heard so many more thematic connections than usual, especially with the iambic trimeter figure played by trombones and then violins at the climax of the first piece; yet still this was music that disturbed by its strangeness, and imposed that strangeness so powerfully that the opening concord of the Mahler songs came as a real relief.

Here too the chamber-musical playing was of benefit, whether in weaving the fugitive music of "Blicke mir nicht" or in making one hear the oboe at the start of "Liebst du um Schönheit?" echo the glorious brass-band cadence of "Um Mitternacht". Dame Janet now finds herself having to muster all her vocal resources for these songs, and so sadly she has lost the fearlessness that was such a strong feature of her musical personality. But the Brahms suits her better, except for its lowest note, and here one could simply enjoy the maturing of her expressivity.

In the Nielsen and the Shostakovich the solo spots all belonged to the orchestra, especially to the cor anglais player of Syrinx's protestations. *The Age of Gold*, with so many short solos in quick succession, could have been written for BBC orchestral camera work at its worst, but this time everything conspired to create a huge disciplined uproar.

Paul Griffiths

RPO/Berglund
Festival Hall

In order to avoid disruptive applause, Mendelssohn gave strict instructions that the movements of his "Scottish" Symphony be played without any pauses between. Last night they only just made it.

I am tempted to think that it was more than just a forgetful breach of concert etiquette which caused a flurry of clapping to break out in the hairsbreadth gap between the second and third movements.

The second, though only masquerading as a scherzo, was worthy of a true *A Mid Summer Night's Dream*: this was string playing the like of which has been heard too seldom of late in the Festival Hall.

And it is not only the strings which are playing with a fresh, lithe sense of line and buoyant rhythmic vitality; it is the presence of self-regenerating ensemble playing which leaps eagerly to the core of the matter in hand.

For Paavo Berglund, the players respond with understated and subtle alacrity; for Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich and Mozart they become gleeful chamber musicians. The fusion was fruitful indeed in the C major K503 Piano Concerto.

Bishop-Kovacevich's way was to play the piece on its nerve-endings. He would tease and hold back every modulatory phrase, work hard its ambivalence between major and minor, and shine a white, clear light on the piano's own accompanying passages by vividly intense articulation.

The RPO responded with acute listening and a sense of animated tension, even within the sustained string writing of the slow movement.

Hilary Finch

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REVIEW

Festive bout of bloodletting

NEW PAPERBACKS

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:

FICTION

Mae West is Dead, edited by Adam Mars-Jones (Faber, £4.95) Best contemporary lesbian and gay fiction from UK and US, stylish and witty, not sensational or self-pitying.

One Foot in the Grave, by Peter Dickinson (Arrow, £2.50) Retired Detective Superintendent in luxury nursing-home after stroke finds a new interest in death, as the residents start dropping off faster than they should by natural causes.

The Heritage, by Siegfried Lenz, translated by Krishna Winston (Methuen, £4.95) An old man is badly burned setting fire to his local *Heimatmuseum*. Powerful, Günter Grassy exploration of German history and cultural disintegration.

The Mind and Body Shop, by Frank Parkin (Flamingo, £3.50) Daft romp through English provincial campus life.

The Prodigal Father, by Kate Saunders (Grafton, £2.95) Runner-up for the Betty Trask, romantic about wild girls in decaying holiday residence on Isle of Wight at turn of century.

NON-FICTION

Good Morning Blues, by Count Basie and Albert Murray (Paladin, £6.95) Laconic, anecdotal, and humorous story of the great jazzman's life: one of the best stories of a musician.

Low Life, by Jeffrey Bernard (Pan, £3.50) Collected *Spaccy* pieces by the comic poet of booze, fags, nags, and fillies.

Rain or Shine, by Cyra McFadden (Flamingo, £3.50) Growing up wild in an unconventional family all over the Wild West.

The Autobiography of an Unknown Indian, by Nirad C. Chaudhuri (Chatto & Windus, £7.95) Classic account of his first 24 years in Calcutta and his ancestral village in East Bengal, paperbacked to coincide with second volume. One of the *great books to come out of the* Anglo-Indian encounter.

The Writer's Handbook, edited by Barry Turner (Macmillan, £5.95) Reference book that pin-points literary editors, radio producers, and other key personnel in the rackety, inky trade; the trouble is it is out of date even before it is published.

CRIME PAPERBACKS

Wolf to the Slaughter, by Ruth Rendell (Mysterious Press, £2.50)
Berlin Game, by Len Deighton (Grafton, £3.50)
No Way Back, by Ken Royce (Coronet, £2.50)
Crimewave, edited by Richard Layman and Matthew J. Bruccoli (Robinson Publishing, £5.95)
The Scandal of Father Brown, by G. K. Chesterton (Penguin, £2.95)

For some probably quite irrational reason I take against the detective story whose first chapter is in effect a prologue, wherein unnamed characters are involved in some obscure dastardliness before the tale proper takes off in an atmosphere of the everyday. Ruth Rendell employs this no doubt legitimate device in Wolf to the Slaughter, but I don't really see what it does for the reader except to make him, at the end, turn back to the beginning and say, "Ah, so *that's* what all that was about".

Miss Rendell is very sensitive to weather, which in this book is largely wet. Her policemen, of assorted ranks but not always sharply delineated, sunk in their upturned collars, rain-beads gathering on their hats, splosh through rich Sussex puddles to interrogate persons in their own homes, rather than haul them into the station.

The watery conditions are ideal for red herrings to swim through, and the whole story is in fact a colossal herring, of the very reddest. Ingenious, complex, entertaining. I think I can say, without spoiling it for you, that it all turns out less of a whodunnit than whomwasitdunto.

If the British and Russian secret services know half as much about each other as Len Deighton seems to know about them both, they might as well disband this minute and divert their funding to better purpose. Yet Deighton, we are told, started life as a railway clerk, with no easy access, one would think, to all those shrouded musical chairs behind closed doors – let alone, in Berlin Game, an immensely detailed and unchallengeably convincing description of some strip-lit, subterranean Whitehall hell-hole where printers spew their interminable crackpot jargon, and not even a Home Secretary, one feels, would be allowed over the threshold.

I don't know how he does this. Or whether real people, occupied in that real place, laugh at his approximations or feel uneasy that he should have got it all so right. At a guess, three quarters of the book is conversation, which calls for watchful reading. A missed nuance, and you're floundering.

In No Way Back, by Ken Royce, no puzzle is set. We know from the first what is going to happen. Eight or nine people are to be systematically wiped out by the leading character, Hashimi Ross, formerly a devout Libyan terrorist and member of a large supporting cast of like mind. But this is a private affair, with no help from his colleagues. Alone, but schooled in the various dispensings of death, he resolves to kill the killers of his girlfriend.

Why it took so many to do that – its detail highly gruesome – and just why they did it, get somewhat lost in elaborations of sub-plot. The reader's interest is deeply engaged in following the progress of Hashimi's "honourable" slaughters. It sounds frightful, but is superbly done.

Crimewave is something of a con. The editors seem to have banged up a batch of short American crime stories (not all without their blood-curdling merit), but made their grand come-on, as proclaimed on the cover, the screenplay of Dashiell Hammett's *After the Third Man*, sensationally discovered in MGM archives. This makes about 120 pages of unreadable bosh, partly because it was never meant to see print, partly because, as a note at the end owns up, only the "plot and mood" were Hammett's.

Another swindle is a Georges Simenon story, which in its very free translation ("Okay, if that's what you want") is like no Simenon story I ever read. I mention it because I feel people snatching it up at airport bookstalls should know what they're getting.

Either memory fails, or some of the tales in The Scandal of Father Brown are new to me. Whichever way, their eerie spell remains powerful still.

Basil Boothroyd

It happened to a friend's friend...

The Choking Doberman, by Jan Harold Brunvand (Penguin, £3.95)

Have you heard about the woman who came home to *find* her dog choking, rushed it to the vet, and was told that it had three human fingers stuck in its throat and the intruder must still be lurking round the house? Or of the whisky bottle on its way to the doctor's containing a urine sample which got stolen and, presumably, sampled in another sense? Or the couple trying to make love in a car too *small for the purpose which* had to have its roof cut off to get them out?

If you haven't you probably will some time – together with the assurance that it's absolutely true; the narrator doesn't actually know the people it happened to but got it from a close friend of theirs. The useful term "foaf" (acronym for Friend Of a Friend), coined in the late Seventies by the English writer Rodney Dale, *is the generic term* used with due acknowledgement by Professor Brunvand for the protagonists of such stories.

The phenomenon of what he calls the urban legend has been recognized for some time as a distinct folkloric genre: I published a brief note on it in *Folk Review* for January 1974; Dale's main contribution, *The Tumour in the Whale*, appeared in 1978; and Brunvand's first book on this topic, *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*, in 1981. As early as 1965, Katharine M. Briggs had referred in passing to "the modern legend . . . relayed as a true story" in the introduction to her and Ruth L. Tongue's *Folktales of England*.

The example she cites is "The Stolen Corpse", in which a car hurrying home from holiday with granny's body on the roof is stolen and never seen again. I bet you've heard *that one*.

In *The Vanishing Hitchhiker*, Brunvand summed up the reasons for the persistence of such oral folklore even in the conditions of modern communication as "the basic need for meaningful personal contact (which) cannot be entirely replaced by the mass media and popular culture".

As in the earlier book, he analyses fully the folkloric and sociological implications of his material. Some wider extrapolations can be made, especially, perhaps, in the field of race relations: newspaper denials by the authorities that any case had been reported or authenticated of Vietnamese refugees stealing and eating pet cats and dogs, served only to reinforce the legends – "It must be true, I read about it in the paper."

Michael Grosvenor Myer

Low key release

ROCK RECORDS

Elvis Costello: Out Of Our Idiot (Demon XFIEND 67)
Madonna: You Can Dance (Sire WX 76)

Apparently, Elvis Costello did not regard *Out Of Our Idiot* as warranting all the paraphernalia of a release schedule. His plan was for people to "discover" it in the racks. Hence the absence of any advertising and promotion, and the indeterminate green and orange design of the cover which lends the package an air of anonymity more usually associated with low-budget Jamaican dub imports.

Costello has a point. The album features 16 old releases, B-sides and so forth, not otherwise available on long playing format, and one previously unissued track, "So Young", a reggae flavoured knockabout recorded in 1979. His 1980 compilation *10 Bloody Marys and 10 How's Your Fathers* was a similar exercise in repackaging loose ends, and it says as much for the commitment of Costello's fans as it does about his prolific output, that this collection is of much interest to anyone.

One high point is "Seven Day Weekend", a blistering up-tempo assault featuring Jimmy Cliff, and previously unavailable in the UK. Although it was recorded in 1986, the number recalls the pungent delivery of his early work circa *This Year's Model*. Also notable is "Turning The Town Red", the theme tune from the Granada TV series *Scully* (formerly the B-side of "I Wanna Be Loved") and a version of Yoko Ono's "*Walking On Thin Ice*".

But much of the remainder sounds like second division material. Bacharach's "Baby It's You", sung in a warbled harmony with Nick Lowe, "From Head To Toe", a single that missed in 1982, and "Imperial Bedroom" (the B-side of "Party Party", not the title track of the album) sound hastily flung together.

Costello: devoted following

The recasting of Madonna's early material – "Holiday", "Into The Groove", "Over And Over" and others – into one album-length sequence of segues has produced the hit *You Can Dance*. While opening a window on her New York dancefloor roots, these lengthy remixes by Jellybean Benitez and others add little to the original versions beyond the odd Max Headroom-style stuttering effect and some neat percussion breaks. It makes a lively party soundtrack, is no doubt good for aerobics classes, but becomes a bit of a grind when you actually have to listen to it.

David Sinclair

Authentic voice

David Lynn Jones Hard Times on Easy Street (Mercury 832 518)
Various artists Frat Rock Vols 1-3 (Rhino RNC 70136/70183/70184)

Packed with songs about American dreams and small-town nightmares, David Lynn Jones's debut sounds very much like the album Bruce Springsteen could have made after he signed off *The River* with the country-style promise of "Wreck on the Highway". Springsteen decided otherwise, but Hard Times on Easy Street is spending a great deal more time on my turntable than *Tunnel of Love*.

An Arkansas boy who made a breakthrough when Willie Nelson recorded his "Living in the Promiseland", Jones now makes use of his own sorrowful, well-used voice (that of a younger, leaner Charlie Rich) to take his chance as a solo artist.

His songwriting, like Springsteen's, has a breadth that evokes the diversity of America while remaining firmly in the mainstream. Jerry Lee Lewis would probably kill to get his hands on the driving "Bonnie Jean"; "The Rogue" would have been perfect for the latter-day Presley. Best of all is a country ballad called "Home of My Heart", whose background harmonies swell like pent-up tears.

What is Frat Rock, and why might you need three volumes *of it? The answer is basic* bopping music for the fraternity houses of US colleges in the post-Beatles, pre-psychedelic middle Sixties. The Kingsmen's "Louie Louie" and Sam the Sham's "Woolly Bully" deserve their immortality; less familiar items, such as the Swingin' Medallions' "Double Shot of My Baby's Love" and the Strangeloves' "I Want Candy", share the same quality of lovable dumbness. Chuck Berry and Ray Charles also make appearances, like benign uncles at a pyjama party.

Richard Williams

CLASSICAL RECORDS

Mendelssohn: Violin sonatas. Mintz, Ostrovsky. DG 419 244-2 (CD, also on black disc)
Davies: Miss Donnithorne's Maggot, Eight Songs for a Mad King. Thomas, Eastman, Fires of London/Davies. Unicorn-Kanchana DKP(CD) 9052 (CD)

Shlomo Mintz's great distinction, apart from his sunny-sweet tone, is to combine gentlemanly dignity with a gypsy *fiddler's digging* for expressive nuance: it is a style that suits Mendelssohn's two sonatas.

Neither sonata is quite a miracle, but the courteous handling they have here from Mintz, and from his poised accompanist Paul Ostrovsky, bring out their best qualities. Sentimentality is declined in favour of grace, even in the slow movement of the F major, and there is no unwise attempt to make something of the excessive repetitiousness: the two musicians simply play elegantly and beautifully enough to carry one through. From Mintz, especially, there is also skittering virtuosity in the finale of the F major, taken fast, as a *jeu d'esprit*. But the ending of the F minor sonata, and its beginning, will be the more surprising.

Davies's release looks like a bit of a gauntlet to all those who have found his *Miss Donnithorne* no more than a prettified remake of his *Eight Songs for a Mad King*: the later work is put directly up against its model.

The offered comparison certainly points up the greater virtuosity and interest of *Miss Donnithorne* as a musical composition. But the piece is only richer because Davies now knew what he was doing, whereas in *Eight Songs* he did not. And where expressionism is at stake, self-consciousness and expertise are not necessarily advantageous.

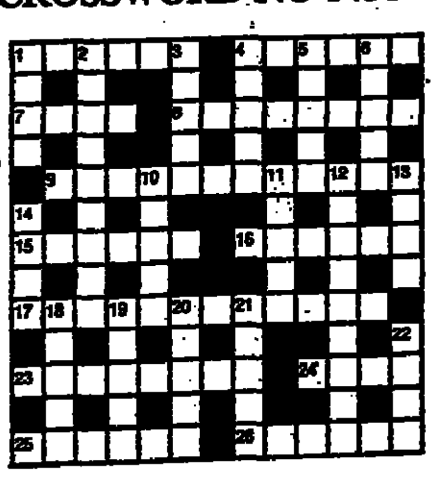
It is good to have the classic, juicy 1970 recording of *Eight Songs*, featuring a vocally deranged Julius Eastman. *Miss Donnithorne*, for all Mary Thomas's daring, cannot help seeming a disappointingly tame sort of psychotic.

Paul Griffiths

CROSSWORD

Prizes of the New Collins Thesaurus will be given for the first two correct solutions opened on Thursday, December 10. Entries should be addressed to The Times Concise Crossword Competition, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be announced on Saturday, December 12.

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1431



ACROSS
1 Scare (6)
4 Earnest request (6)
7 Rescue (4)
8 Sorrowful (8)
9 Sussex opera site (12)
15 Fall (6)
16 Patterns (6)
17 Working arrangement (5,7)
23 Feast day (8)
24 Large bundle (4)
25 Closed tightly (6)
26 Beat (6)

DOWN
1 Clenched hand (4)
2 Complex (9)
3 Shy (5)
4 Dust jacket precis (5)
5 Indian (5)
6 Reject (5)
10 Christens (5)
11 Pigment earth (5)
12 Disown (9)
13 More (4)
14 Mutilate (4)
18 Fat (5)
19 Before (5)
20 Very bright (5)
21 Well-founded (5)
22 Cried (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1430

ACROSS: 1 Public 4 Strays 7 Tuft 8 Moriarty 9 Egghead 11 Waive 12 Downing Street 15 Purse 16 Vehicle 20 Kalahari 21 Calm 22 Rarity 23 Tinsel

DOWN: 1 Pithead 2 Befog 3 Comma 4 Spry 5 Airline 6 Style 10 Elite 11 Watch 13 Warbler 14 Thermal 15 Poker 17 Edict 18 Crass 19 Vary

The winners of prize concise No 1425 are: James Blair, Barnfield House, Barnfield Wood Road, Beckenham, Kent; and Mrs B. Somerset-Jones, Southmead, Mill Lane, Willaston, Wirral.

SOLUTION TO NO 1425 *(last Saturday's prize concise)*

ACROSS: 1 Russet 4 Aerate 7 Lobe 8 Bioscope 9 Golden Fleece 15 Camber 16 Damper 17 Solomon's Seal 23 Heelball 24 Fail 25 Smirks 26 Deceit

DOWN: 1 Rile 2 Subnormal 3 Table 4 Aloof 5 Ruche 6 Topic 10 Dream 11 Leads 12 Esplanade 13 Earl 14 Acts 18 Oleum 19 Ogler 20 Opals 21 Solid 22 Slit

Name ____________________

Address ____________________

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BRIDGE

Bulgarian charms

Some people might imagine that Bulgarian bridge players would be as intimidating as the Swiss navy. Even if they did not suffer from that illusion, any male opponent would surely be disarmed by the feminine charms of Matilda Lorer and Nerena Deleva.

In Bulgaria bridge is recognized as a sport, and in the recent European Championships both the men's and women's teams received a grant to cover their expenses from the Bulgarian government. The men finished *18th* and the women 8th, a highly creditable performance on their first appearance. But the outstanding achievement was Lorer and Deleva's victory in the European Ladies' Pairs *Championships*, *which* preceded the main event.

On this hand from Bulgaria's match against the Netherlands, Matilda Lorer once again got the better of opponents who had taken the *silver medal* in the Pairs.

Bulgaria v Netherlands. North-South game. Dealer South.

♠ K 9 6 3
♡ A Q 3 2
◇ J 4
♣ 10 8 5

♠ J
♡ J 10 6 5 4
◇ K Q
♣ A K 9 7 6

N
W E
S

♠ Q 10 7 5 4
♡ 8
◇ 9 8 6 5 3 2
♣ 4 3

♠ A 8 2
♡ K 9 7
◇ A 10 8 7
♣ Q J 2

W	N	E	S
Daskalova	Kaas	Grigorova	Vriend
–	–	–	1◇
1♡	Double (1)	No	1NT
2♣	No	No	No

(1) Negative

Opening lead ◇J

In the Closed room the Bulgarian East-West pair ran into a spot of bother which an enterprising North might have made more painful.

South took her Ace of diamonds and switched to a trump, which restricted declarer *to five tricks, 150 to* Netherlands. In the Open room the Bulgarians were more ambitious.

W	N	E	S
Van der Pas	Deleva	Schippers	Lorer
–	–	–	1NT (1)
2♡ (2)	3♡ (3)	No	3NT
No	No	No	–

(1) 14-16 points.
(2) Hearts and a minor.
(3) Four spades and a heart stopper.

Opening lead ♣A

Although North-South had a good understanding of each other's bidding methods, the final contract was obviously going to require a little luck and considerable skill.

Van der Pas led the ♣A and continued with the K♣ and another club to establish the suit. Lorer won with the ♣Q, crossed to dummy with the ♠K, and returned the ♠3, bravely playing the ♠8 when East played low. When West discarded a heart, Lorer had an *exact picture of* the distribution. She cashed the ♠A, forcing West to disgorge a club winner. A low diamond at that point capitalized on the favourable distribution. West took the ◇Q and her winning club. But Lorer had the rest.

I'm sorry to say I don't know the Bulgarian for "well played".

Jeremy Flint

CHESS

Cutting through the red tape

Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, the two outstanding modern champions, do not agree about many things. Nevertheless, both are convinced that the current system for world title qualification has become outmoded and cumbersome. Its tortuous chain of worldwide zonals, interzonals and many-tiered candidates' events presents a discouraging, exhausting and poorly paid barrier for most professional Grandmasters.

I spoke at length to the two world championship contenders in Seville during their match. Both concur with my view that the establishment of the World Cup series, under the aegis of the newly formed Grandmaster Association, presents a unique opportunity to cut through the jungle of red tape which bedevils world championship qualification. Now that the title match is to be played once every three years, with the six World Cup tournaments spread over the intervening two, why not make the World Cup winner the automatic challenger for the world *championship*? Should the champion win the World Cup, then the runner-up can challenge.

With $1.2 million prize money at stake and all the world's top Grandmasters competing in the World Cup, this is surely the neatest and best solution for the future.

This week's game is a brilliant win by Karpov against the Dutch Grandmaster Jan Timman, who should be number three in the January world ranking list. He will also be a major condender for top honours in the World Cup and hence, according to the new proposal, possibly an automatic contender for the world title.

White: Jan Timman. Black: Anatoly Karpov. Scotch Game London 1984 Phillips and Drew/GLC Tournament.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6
3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nxc6 bxc6 6 e5 Qe7
7 Qe2 Nd5 8 c4 Ba6
9 Qe4

An unusual choice. Karpov could have gone for repetition with 9 . . . Nf6 but prefers to sharpen the struggle.

9 ... Nb6 10 Nd2 0-0-0
11 c5

An ambitious move which tries to rip open the defences around Black's King.

11 ... Bxf1 12 cxb6 Ba6
13 bxa7 Kb7 14 Nb3 f6

Timman's attack against the somewhat exposed Black King is threatening to become dangerous, hence Black must take immediate measures to distract his attention, blowing the centre apart for his pair of Bishops.

15 f4 fxe5 16 fxe5 Re8
17 Bf4

Karpov now has a choice: a comfortable endgame after 17 . . . Qb4+ or the more risky counter-attacking 'ine he actually chooses.

17 ... Qb4+ 18 g3 Qh5
19 Rc1 Ka8

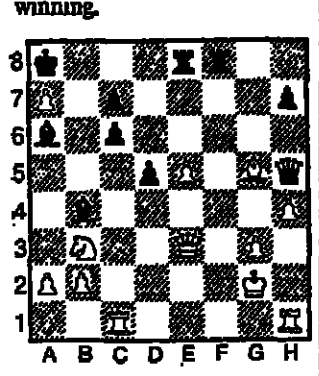
Cunningly hiding the King behind White's advanced pawn.

20 b4 d5 21 Qe3

If 21 Qc2 Rxe5+ 22 Bxe5 Qxe5+ 23 Kf2 Bd6 and Black enjoys a tremendous initiative. Even after the more cautious text Karpov succeeds in launching a terrible offensive against White's King which, as a result of Karpov's brilliant 19th move, has become more seriously exposed than its Black counterpart.

21 ... g5 22 Bxg5 Bb4+
23 Kf2 Rhf8+ 24 Kg2

The barricade method 24 Bf4 does not help, 24 . . . Rxe5 25 Qd4 Rxf4+ 26 gxf4 Re2+ winning.



24 ... Rxe5

The decisive sacrifice to crown Karpov's convincing strategy.

25 Qxe5 Qf3+ 26 Kh2 Qf2+

. . . and Timman resigned, without waiting for 27 Kh3 Bc8+ 28 g4 Rf3+ *etc*.

A most impressive miniature.

Raymond Keene

THE TIMES ARTS DIARY

Pictures posted

Manet's barmaid at the *Folies-Bergère* will soon have no time to stand and look so sad. The star of the Courtauld collection can expect a rush of new customers when the galleries are at last united with the Courtauld Institute at a new home in Somerset House. The move in 1989 – confirmed this week after seven years of delays and negotiations – will make this stunning picture collection far more accessible and conspicuous, as well as breathing new life into the Fine Rooms at Sir William Chambers's neo-classical masterpiece.

Courtauld director Michael Kauffmann hopes the new address will allow twice as many pictures to go on display – space limitations in Woburn Square mean only about 200 of the 500 are on show – and attract three times as many visitors. He admits that while some of the images in the collection are very well known the galleries have to date kept a low profile – as summed up by actor Charlton Heston. "He visited us once and apparently kept saying, 'Gee, I didn't know *that* was here', then he added, 'But I didn't know *here* was here'."

Frozen follies

Knees are causing considerable problems for cast members of Stephen Sondheim's award-winning musical, *Follies* – they either knock with cold or ache with over-use. Performers in skimpy costumes were shivering so much when temperatures recently plummeted that they held a meeting on stage, filling that Arctic region with heated debate. Now producer Cameron Mackintosh is replacing radiators removed from stage areas when the show went into the Shaftesbury Theatre, and also boosting the rest of the system.

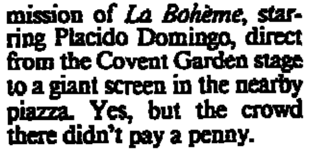
But that does not solve aching knees – Diana Rigg has recently had to sit out of the big dance number, *Who's That Woman?*, because of a painful joint, although she continues womanfully with her strip-tease. *And Julia* McKenzie suffers from what she calls "Saturday-night knees" after a week of performances in high heels on a steeply raked stage.

● The 50-strong cast of The Sleeping Beauty, ITV's Christmas ice spectacular adapted from the classical ballet and starring Robin Cousins and Rosalynn Sumners, were asked to put libidos on ice during a month of filming. Director Tom Gutteridge, who requested the emotional freeze (no sex please, we're skating?), explains: "Skating is very, very hard work and very difficult. You have to be sure everyone is fit and well all the time, so I did indicate that it was a bad idea to indulge in nocturnal activities, meaning night-clubs and everything else."

Cash course

As if a night at the opera were not already expensive enough, you can now pay £55 to hear a preparatory two-hour lecture; the full series of eight weekly talks in the opera course devised by John Julius Norwich is being offered for a bargain £325.

Starting in February, the lectures will be given at the Minema Cinema, Knightsbridge, by various well-known opera-buffs who will each examine a specific work from the forthcoming seasons at the Royal Opera House, Coliseum or Glyndebourne. Lord Norwich says he was inspired to action after witnessing the enthusiasm of spectators at this summer's live transmission of *La Bohème*, starring Placido Domingo, direct from the Covent Garden stage to a giant screen in the nearby piazza. Yes, but the crowd there didn't pay a penny.



Lord Norwich and Domingo

Knight's night

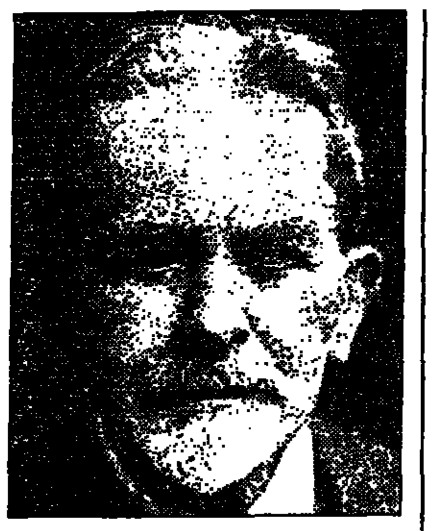
Sir Roy Strong's imminent departure from the V&A is being marked by many fond farewells – some more formal than others. He will follow *dinner with the trustees* in the splendid surroundings of the Italian Cast Court one night by being fêted the next day in the staff pantomime, entitled *Roy Whittington and His Cat*. Internal posters show a moustachioed figure setting out into the unknown with his worldly goods over one shoulder and cat in attendance – Sir Roy's large black feline friend, the Reverend Wenceslas Muff, glories in a certain fame, but could soon be upstaged by Gytha, the old English sheepdog owned by director-designate, Elizabeth Esteve-Coll.

Lynda Murdin

THE WEEK AHEAD

CINEMA

A FAMILY AFFAIR: Angelica Huston follows her Oscar-winning performance in *Prizzi's Honour* with a leading part in her father's last film *The Dead* (U), a mellow reflection on life, marriage, and death, derived from James Joyce's short story; John Huston's son Tony wrote the script. Angelica plays a poised wife whose composure unravels during a post-Christmas party in turn-of-the-century Dublin. But this is principally an ensemble piece with Dublin's Abbey and Gate Theatres. Lumière, London WC2 (01-836 0691), from Friday.



BOOKS

GOLDEN BOUGH: J.G. Frazer was one of the most influential Victorian scholars, and *The Golden Bough*, with its haunting introduction about the priest who slew the slayer and must himself be slain, was one of the most controversial books of the century. From his study he ranged the world and showed that the magic and religion of lesser breeds within the law were connected with Christianity and the other classical religions. The first proper biography is published this week, *J.G. Frazer* by Robert Ackerman (Cambridge, £35).

CONCERTS

STRENUOUS SCHUBERT: Alfred Brendel returns to the London concert platform with the first of four recitals devoted to the major piano works of Schubert's final years. All the big sonatas, both sets of impromptus and the "Wanderer" Fantasy are included in this strenuous undertaking, and it will be fascinating to hear Brendel's thoughts on this significant body of music. Royal Festival Hall, London SE1 (01-928 3191), tomorrow at 3.15pm; Tuesday at 7.30pm; December 13 at 3.15pm; and December 15 at 7.30pm.

OPERA

FROM AUSTRALIA WITH LOVE: Yvonne Kenny, the Australian soprano, made her London debut in an obscure Donizetti opera, *Rosamunde d'Inghilterra*. She returns to sing Adina, in a rather better known one, *L'elisir d'amore*. She has been singing some quite heavy roles around Europe over the years, but this may well find her in lighter voice. This was assumed in part for the Australian TV series *Melba* in which she supplied the soundtrack voice for Dame Nellie. Royal Opera House, London WC2 (01-242 1066) Thursday.

THEATRE

COUNTRY MATTERS: Carlo Goldoni, the 18th century playwright, has three short comedies being given their London première as a single evening under the title *Countrymania*. Goldoni broke away from *commedia dell'arte* and introduced social realism to the Italian theatre. In the trilogy a group of fashionable people prepare for, enjoy and count the cost of their annual season in the country. National Theatre (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (01-928 2252). Previews from today. Opens December 12. In repertory.

ROCK

HEALED WITH A KISS: Robert Smith runs the Cure as a five-way songwriting democracy, a policy which paid off with one of this year's most vibrant albums, *Kiss Me, Kiss Me, Kiss Me*. Since Smith and the keyboardist Lol Tolhurst started the group in 1977, a string of playfully offbeat pop hits, like "The Love Cats" and "Why Can't I Be You", has complemented an impressive catalogue of darker LP material. Tomorrow NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133); Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

THEATRE

LONDON

ACTING SHAKESPEARE: Ian McKellen's four-week season is the first London run of his well-travelled solo show.
Playhouse Theatre, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (01-839 4401). Previews from Fri, opens Dec 14..

BETWEEN EAST AND WEST: Richard Nelson's play about a Czech dissident couple granted political asylum in America. Sheila Allen and John Woodvine, directed by David Jones.
Hampstead Theatre, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (01-722 9301). Previews from Thurs, opens Dec 15.

BREL: "A celebration of the songs of Jacques Brel." Simon Bowman, Kelly Hunter, Sian Phillips in a show compiled and directed by Bill Bryden and Sebastian Graham-Jones with Linda Thompson.
Donmar Warehouse (01-240 8230/379 6565). Previews from Tues, opens Thurs.

LOVE'S A LUXURY: Antique British farce by Guy Paxton and Edward V. Hoile.
The Orange Tree, Kew Road, Richmond (01-940 3633). Preview Thurs, opens Fri.

SEPARATION: West End transfer for Tom Kempinski's two-hander, a romantic comedy with David Suchet and Saskia Reeves, directed by Michael Attenborough.
Comedy Theatre (01-930 2578/8778). Opens Tues.

SPECULATORS: Barry Kyle directs a new City comedy by Tony Marchant. Cast includes Gerard Murphy, Robert Demeger, Gary Love and Amanda Harris.
The Pit (01-638 8891). Previews from Wed, opens Dec 15. In repertory.

STARS: RSC members in a Stephen Lowe comedy about wartime Nottingham. As seen at the Barbican.
Watermans Arts Centre, 40 High Street, Brentford (01-568 1176). Opens Fri.

TOTAL ABUSE: Self-billed as "the world's most offensive comedian", Gerry Sadowitz presents his one-man show.
ICA, The Mall, SW1 (01-930 3647). From Tues until Dec 12

THE TRAVELLER: David Threlfall and Morag Hood in the Leicester Haymarket production of Jean-Claude van Itallie's "personal comedy", based on the experiences of Joseph Chaikin following a stroke.
Almeida Theatre Almeida Street, N1 (01-359 4404). Previews from Tues, opens Wed.

OUT OF TOWN

CARDIFF: Trychinebau Rhyfel (The Disasters of War): Brith Gof theatre company in the Welsh première of part one of a work inspired by Goya's etchings of the same name.
Chapter Arts (0222 396061). Opens Wed. Until Dec 12.

LIVERPOOL: Gypsy: The classic back-stage musical, with Sondheim lyrics.
Playhouse (051 709 8363). Preview Mon. Tues.

NOTTINGHAM: The Rocky Horror Show : Vivyan Ellacott's touring production of Richard O'Brien's rock musical is now an "alternative pantomime".
Theatre Royal (0602 482626). Opens Mon. Until Dec 12.

CONCERTS

SINOPOLI/BRUCKNER: The Philharmonia Orchestra is conducted by Giuseppe Sinopoli in Bruckner's rather lengthy Symphony No 5 and Mariko Senju solos in Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto.
Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191). Mon, 7.30pm.

PRICE/PARSONS: Margaret Price makes a rare appearance at the Wigmore Hall singing Mozart and Mahler, Schubert and Strauss. And Geoffrey Parsons accompanies.
Wigmore Hall, 36 Wigmore Street, London W1 (01-935 2141). Tues, 7.30pm.

NEW DUTILLEUX: Isaac Stern is the soloist in the London premiere of Dutilleux's Violin Concerto with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Rattle. The programme begins with Berg's *Lulu* Suite, ends with Stravinsky's *Sacre du Printemps*.
Barbican Centre. Thurs, 7.15pm.

PREVIN/PRO: More familiar ground is trod by the RPO conducted by Andre Previn — Brahm's Tragic Overture and Symphony No 2, also, with Salvatore Accardo as soloist, Sibelius's Violin Concerto.
Royal Festival Hall. Thurs, 7.30pm.

JUILLIARD QUARTET: Now past their 40th anniversary, the Juilliard Quartet make one of their infrequent visits to London, playing Haydn's Quartet Op 33 No 1, Beethoven's Quartet Op 59 No 1 and Brahms's Quartet Op 67.
Wigmore Hall. Thurs, 7.30pm.

OPERA

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA: Jonathan Miller's new *commedia dell'arte*-inspired *Barber of Seville* plays tonight, Wed and Fri at 7.30pm. with Alan Opie in the title role. Meanwhile the last performances of Miller's mafioso *Rigoletto* this year can be caught on Thurs and Sat (last night Dec 17) at 7.30pm.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (01-836 3161).

SCOTTISH OPERA: Bring back *La Vie Parisienne* for a Christmas run of nine performances, starting on Fri at 7.15pm. John Wells, co-founder of *Private Eye*, directs a cast including Penelope Mackay and Hugh Hetherington.
Theatre Royal, Glasgow (041 331 1234).

LONDON ORIANA CHOIR: Present with the English Chamber Orchestra a concert performance on Mon at 7.15pm of Cilea's *Adriana Lecouvreur* with Natalia Troitskaya leading a cast conducted by Maximiano Valdes.
Barbican, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141).

MONTEVERDI CHOIR: Purcell double bill of the semi-opera *Dioclesian* and the incidental music to *Timon Of Athens*, conducted by John Eliot Gardiner. Thurs at 7.30pm.
St Johns, Smith Square, London SW1 (01-222 1061).

FILMS

DANCERS (PG): Ballet plus soap opera — the *Turning Point* mixture again from director Herbert Ross; with Mikhail Baryshnikov as a ballet star Casanova involved with a teenage newcomer to the company. With Alessandra Ferri, Leslie Browne. Cannon Shaftesbury Avenue (01-836 6279), from Tues.

SPACEBALLS (PG): The time for a parody of *Star Wars* has long since passed, but Mel Brooks delivers one regardless. With John Candy, Rick Moranis, Brooks himself, and a scattering of amusing sight gags. Odeon Leicester Square (01-930 6111), from Fri.

LITTLE DORRIT (U): Worthy and painstaking Dickens adaptation in two three-hour parts, with newcomer Sarah Pickering as the daughter born in a debtor's prison, Derek Jacobi as the troubled hero, and a lengthy cast of notables. Written, edited, designed and directed by Christine Edzard. Curzon West End (01-439 4805), from Fri.

BIG FOOT AND THE HENDERSONS (PG): A suburban family return from camping with a hairy terrestrial. Tired variation on E.T. from Steven Spielberg's company. With John Lithgow, Melinda Dillon; directed by William Dear. Plaza (01-437 1234), from Fri.

WALKS

LONDON BENEATH THE STREETS: meet today, Blackfriars tube, 11am, £3.

A GHOST WALK — THE HAUNTED WEST END: meet today, Embankment tube, 2pm, £2.25.

CHRISTMAS DICKENS WALK: meet tomorrow, Tower Hill tube, 11am, £2.25.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM: meet tomorrow. Museum main entrance, 2.30pm, £3.

RADIO

DESERT ISLAND DISCS: Antony Sher, History Man and superlative Richard III, chats to Michael Parkinson and chooses favourite records. Radio 4, tomorrow, 12.15-12.55pm.

● *For the Time Being: Advent*, a new 25-minute work by the Scottish composer, Thea Musgrave (above), is included in *Auden Settings For Advent*. Scored for unaccompanied chorus, it is one of three works set to the poetry of W. H. Auden and performed by the BBC Singers. The others — *A Shepherd's Carol* and *Chorale* — were the final fruits of Auden's association with Benjamin Britten. Radio 3, Monday, 11.15-11.57pm.

SCHOENBERG GOES TO HOLLYWOOD: The last 18 years of the avant-garde composer, Arnold Schoenberg, incongruously adrift in the movie colony.
Radio 4, Wed, 11-11.47am.

GALLERIES

L S LOWRY: Edited highlights of the artist's centenary exhibition just finished at Salford.
Cleveland Gallery, Middlesbrough (0642 248155). From today.

ARTURO DI STEFANO: Poetic paintings and prints on themes of shrouds, vapour and smoke.
Woodlands Art Gallery, Blackheath, London SE3 (01-853 4631). From today.

CARL PLACKMAN: A hometown exhibition for the sculptor and teacher whose works are made by collecting together household objects and effects.
Huddersfield Art Gallery (0484 5138808). From today.

ROCK

SALIF KEÏTA: Generous critical acclaim greeted the last visit by this extraordinary albino singer from Mali.
Tonight Astoria, London WC2 (01-434 0403).

SUZANNE VEGA: Lawks! How will the frail folkie fare in this huge venue?
Tomorrow Wembley Arena, Middlesex (01-902 1234).

CLIFF RICHARD: More than 29 years since "Move It" which he still features in his show.
Mon for six nights, NEC, Birmingham (021 780 4133).

PHOTOGRAPHY

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR: The results of the annual competition open to amateurs and professionals alike and concentrating on the savage as well as the beautiful aspects of nature.
Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London SW7 (01-589 6323). Until end of Jan.

FAY GODWIN — THE SCOTTISH PHOTOGRAPHS: The wild and remote parts of Scotland, including the Hebrides and Orkney, by Fay Godwin.
Collins Gallery, University of Strathclyde, Richmond Street, Glasgow (041 552 4400). Until Dec 23.

DANCE

ROYAL BALLET: Two more performances of *Giselle* with Bryony Brind in the title role this afternoon and Lesley Collier on Mon.
Covent Garden (01-240 1066).

NORTHERN BALLET THEATRE: Two performances of *Swan Lake* at Manchester today and *Coppelia* at Norwich Tues until Dec 12.
Palace Theatre, Manchester (061 236 9922). Theatre Royal, Norwich (0603 628205).

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET: *The Nutcracker* introduces Christmas a little early.
Birmingham Hippodrome (021 622 7846). Mon until Dec 12.

JAZZ

GEORGE MELLY: Good Time George kicks off his annual Soho residency, continuing beyond the New Year.
Ronnie Scott's Club, 47 Frith Street, London W1 (01-439 0747), Mon-Sat.

JULIAN ARGUELLES/SIMON PURCELL: Two of Britain's most promising young players, the saxophonist and pianist, begin a short tour of the north west.
King George's Hall, Blackburn (0254 582579) Thurs;

TELEVISION

TIMEWATCH: A reappraisal of the trial of Adolph Eichmann in the light of controversial criticism of its legality and political purpose by the Jewish philosopher, Hannah Arendt.
BBC2, Wed, 8.10-9pm.

THE VISIT: LIVING LIKE A LORD: The incredible-but-true story of Kenneth Murray, a 73-year-old widower living quietly in Tasmania who suddenly found himself a Scottish earl.
BBC1, Wed, 9.30-10-20pm.

THE CASE OF SHERLOCK HOLMES: Tim Pigott-Smith puts on the deerstalker and investigates the legend of the world's most famous detective, who first appeared in print 100 years ago.
BBC2, Thurs, 9.30-10.40pm.

FILMS ON TV

THAT OBSCURE OBJECT OF DESIRE (1977): Luis Bunuel's cheeky farewell to the cinema, with Fernando Rey in pursuit of a young maid who is played by two actresses.
BBC2, today, 10-11.45pm.

MANHATTAN (1979): The lives and tangled loves of smart New Yorkers as charted by Woody Allen, with the help of a marvellous Gershwin soundtrack.
BBC2, Mon, 9-10.30pm.

● Sherlock Holmes first appeared in the cinema screen in an American one-reeler in 1903. But his best interpreter was Basil Rathbone (above), who first played the role in the 1939 version of *The Hound of the Baskervilles* and went on to make a series of Holmes pictures, with Nigel Bruce as Watson. They are being revived in a BBC2 season to mark the centenary of the first Holmes story. *The Hound* is showing on Friday, 6-7.15pm.

BOOKINGS

FIRST CHANCE

A THEME WITH VARIATIONS: Booking opens today for celebration of British music with works by Walton, Britten and Birtwistle; premières of works by Steve Gray, Robert Saxton, Jonathan Harvey and Mark Anthony Turnage. Also Beatles Night Celebration with the King's Singers under George Martin. Jan-June.
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-638 4141) and Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (01-928 3191).

BIRTWISTLE FESTIVAL: Booking opens today for four-day series of concerts including Act II of *The Mask of Orpheus*, *Earth Dances*, and UK première of *Endless Parade*; performances by BBC Symphony Orchestra, London Sinfonietta, and Endymion Ensemble.
Jan 10-13.
Barbican (01-638 8891/628 8975).

LAST CHANCE

FACES OF THE EIGHTIES: Photos of 200 figures by Gemma Levine, including Margaret Thatcher, Joan Collins, Arthur Scargill, Terry Wogan, John Gielgud, and the Archbishop of Canterbury.
Barbican (01-638 4141).
Ends tomorrow.

ALMOST PERSUADED: Annie Griffin's one-woman show from the Edinburgh Festival, about country songs and the lives of the women who sing them. In London before nationwide tour.
ICA, The Mall, London SW1 (01-930 3647).

Theatre: Tony Patrick; Films: Geoff Brown; Concerts: Max Harrison; Opera: Hilary Finch; Rock: David Sinclair; Jazz: Clive Davis; Dance: John Percival; Galleries: David Lee; Photography: Mike Young; Walks: Greta Carslaw; Television, Radio and Films on TV: Peter Waymark; Bookings: Anne Whitehouse.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 22

ICHNOGRAM
(a) From Greek *ichnos*, a footstep, and *gramma*, a drawing.

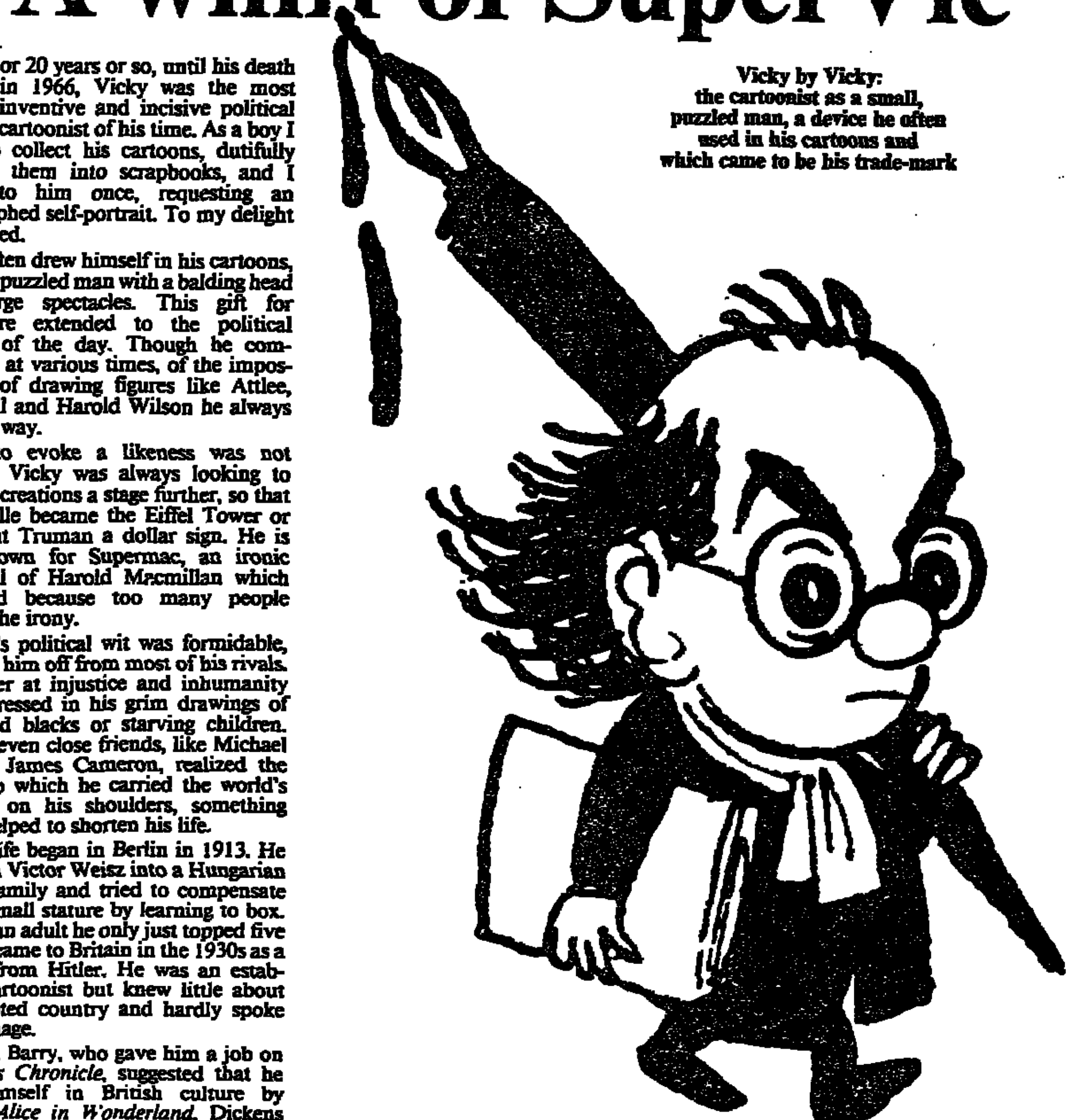
AMBAGIOUS
(c) Roundabout, from the Latin *ambi-*, both, and *agere*, a Protean word meaning to drive, act, set in motion, move.

PIGDAUN
(a) From Hindi *pikdan*; *pik* is the expectorated juice of chewed betel.

HEDGING
(a) Forward encroachment by a defender close-marking and harassing an attacker.

UBIETY
(b) From Latin *ubi*, the quality of being in a definite place at any given time; planets have ubiety, man is the ubiquitous animal.

A whiff of SuperVic



Vicky by Vicky: the cartoonist as a small, puzzled man, a device he often used in his cartoons and which came to be his trade-mark

For 20 years or so, until his death in 1966, Vicky was the most inventive and incisive political cartoonist of his time. As a boy I used to collect his cartoons, dutifully sticking them into scrapbooks, and I wrote to him once, requesting an autographed self-portrait. To my delight he obliged.

He often drew himself in his cartoons, a small, puzzled man with a balding head and large spectacles. This gift for caricature extended to the political leaders of the day. Though he complained, at various times, of the impossibility of drawing figures like Attlee, Gaitskell and Harold Wilson he always found a way.

But to evoke a likeness was not enough. Vicky was always looking to take his creations a stage further, so that De Gaulle became the Eiffel Tower or President Truman a dollar sign. He is best known for Supermac, an ironic portrayal of Harold Macmillan which backfired because too many people missed the irony.

Vicky's political wit was formidable, marking him off from most of his rivals. His anger at injustice and inhumanity was expressed in his grim drawings of oppressed blacks or starving children. But not even close friends, like Michael Foot or James Cameron, realized the extent to which he carried the world's troubles on his shoulders, something which helped to shorten his life.

That life began in Berlin in 1913. He was born Victor Weisz into a Hungarian Jewish family and tried to compensate for his small stature by learning to box. Even as an adult he only just topped five feet. He came to Britain in the 1930s as a refugee from Hitler. He was an established cartoonist but knew little about his adopted country and hardly spoke the language.

Gerald Barry, who gave him a job on the *News Chronicle*, suggested that he steep himself in British culture by reading *Alice in Wonderland*, Dickens and back numbers of *Punch* and *Wisden*. Vicky gratefully accepted the advice, though cricket was to remain a mystery.

He made his name on the *News Chronicle*, before moving to the *Daily Mirror* and, finally, to the London *Evening Standard*, where his cartoons took the slot once occupied by his great predecessor, David Low. Well to the left of the editorial line of his newspapers and often enraging his readers, Vicky nevertheless enjoyed wide freedom.

He was an obsessive worker, often supplying two or three different cartoons a day. He worried endlessly, not only about the ways of the world but also about his ability to think up fresh ideas. His mental torment was compounded by illness. In the end it became too much and he took his own life.

Vicky's quality and style is evoked in an new exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery, which includes hitherto unpublished drawings. There is also a new biography. It is right to remember him, for he has had no real successor.

Peter Waymark

Vicky: Cartoons by Victor Weisz 1913-66 opens at the National Portrait Gallery, St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552) on Friday. *Vicky*, by Russell Davies and Liz Ottaway, is published by Secker and Warburg (£9.95).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

Continued from facing page

SATURDAY

BBC1 **WALES: 5.15-5.20pm** Sports News Wales **SCOTLAND: 5.15-5.20pm** Scottish News and Sport **11.05-11.35** Sportscene **11.35-1.00am** Film: The Survivor **1.00-1.05** Weather, close **NORTHERN IRELAND: 4.55-5.05pm** Northern Ireland Results **5.15-5.20** Inside Ulster Newsline **1.15-1.20am** Northern Ireland News Headlines **ENGLAND: 5.15-5.20pm** South and East (London) - Sport. South and West (Plymouth) - Spotlight News and Sport. All other English regions - Regional News and Sport.

ANGLIA As London except:**11.30am** Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased) **12.30pm-1.00** ALF

BORDER As London except:**11.30am** Groovie Ghoulies **12.00-1.00pm** UFO **12.30am** Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except:**11.00am** Film: Count of Monte Cristo **12.50-1.00** Cartoon **12.30am** Prisoner Cell Block H **1.25** Film: England Made Me **3.15** Saxon: Live Innocence **4.15** News, Jobfinder.

CHANNEL As London except:**11.30am** Streethawk **12.30pm-1.00** Best of Sport **4.00am** Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except:**11.30am** ALF **12.00** Indoor Hockey from Dundee **12.55pm-1.00** Home Cookery Club **12.30am** Reflections, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except:**11.30am-12.30pm** Film: Not Wanted on Voyage **12.30am** Film: Oklahoma Crude **2.25** America's Top 10 **2.50** Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except:**11.30am** Easy Street **12.00** ALF **12.30pm-1.00** America's Top 10 **12.30am** Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except:**No variation.**

SCOTTISH As London except:**11.30am** America's Top 10 **12.00-1.00pm** Indoor Hockey **12.35am** Late Call, Closedown.

TSW As London except:**11.30am** Greatest American Hero **12.30pm-1.00** South West Week **5.05** Newsport **5.10-5.45** Blockbusters **12.30am** Postscript, Closedown.

TVS As London except:**11.30am** Streethawk **12.30pm-1.00** Best of TVS Sport **4.00am** Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except:**11.30am-1.00pm** Film: SOS Pacific **12.30am** Poetry of the People, Closedown.

ULSTER As London except:**11.30am-1.00pm** Film: Merry Musketeers **4.55-5.00** Sports Results **12.25am** Newstime, Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except:**11.30am** Film: Merry Musketeers **12.50pm-1.00** Cartoon **12.30am** Film: The Passage **2.20** Jobfinder **3.20** Closedown.

S4C Starts:**9.30am** Coping **10.00** What the Papers Say **10.15** Years Ahead **11.00** Mavis on Four **11.30** Man and His World **11.45** Time to Remember **12.15pm** Scotland's Story **12.45** Racing **2.50** Film: Viva Villa!* **5.00** Elephant — Lord of the Jungle **6.00** Right to Reply **6.30** Houseful of Plants **7.00** To The End of the Rhine **7.30** Newyddion **7.50** Ffitach **8.20** Awyr Las **9.25** Y Maes Chwarae **10.15** Badminton **11.00** Late Night with David Letterman **11.50** Film: Performance **1.50am** Mysteries of Edgar Wallace* **2.50** Closedown.

SUNDAY

BBC1 **WALES: 12.30-12.35am** News of Wales **SCOTLAND: 12.35-12.58pm** Landward **7.45-8.05** Sportscene 87 **11.10-12.00** A House Divided (Union Debate at Glasgow University) **12.00-12.40am** The Secret Life of Paintings **12.40-12.45** Scottish News **NORTHERN IRELAND: 12.35-12.58pm** Tomorrow's Farm **11.10-12.00** I Found Myself Alone **12.00-12.40am** The Secret Life of Paintings **12.40-12.45** Northern Ireland News **BBC2** **WALES: 2.00-2.40pm** Rugby Special Wales (Pontypool and Glamorgan Wanderers at Pontypool Park) **5.10-5.50** From the Festivals (Cardiff Festival at St David's Hall)

ANGLIA As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Speedy Gonzales **1.00pm** Link **1.15** Bioscope Bygones **1.20** News **1.30-2.00** Farming Diary **5.00** Man in a Suitcase **6.00-6.30** Bullseye

BORDER As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Speedy Gonzales **1.00pm** Farming Outlook **1.30** News **1.35** Cartoon **1.45-2.00** Link **5.00** Highway to Heaven **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **12.30am** Closedown.

CENTRAL As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Cartoon **1.00pm** News **1.05-1.15** Central Post **1.30-2.00** Here and Now **5.00** Highway to Heaven **5.55** Cartoon **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **12.30am** Prisoner Cell Block H **1.25** Donahue **2.25** Alfred Hitchcock Presents **2.55** News, Jobfinder

CHANNEL As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Starting Point **1.00pm** Link **1.15** Les Français Chez-Vous **1.30-2.00** Farm Focus **4.30** Bullseye **5.00-5.30** Knights of God **3.15am** Company, Closedown.

GRAMPIAN As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Cartoon **11.00** Horses for Courses **11.30-12.00** Touch of Music **1.00pm** Farming Outlook **1.30** Cartoon **1.40-2.00** Link **2.30** Film: Wedding Night* **4.00-4.30** Bullseye **5.00-6.30** Scotsport **12.30am** Reflections, Closedown.

GRANADA As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Speedy Gonzales **1.00pm** Members Only **1.05** Action Line **1.35** Aap Kaa Hak **1.40-2.00** Link **5.00** Who's The Boss? **5.30** Celebration Masterclass **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **11.45** R L Action: Hull K R v St Helens **12.45am** Closedown.

HTV WEST As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Speedy Gonzales **1.00pm** Farming Wales **1.30** Cartoon **1.45-2.00** Link **5.00** Highway to Heaven **6.00-6.35** Bullseye **12.30am** Closedown.

HTV WALES As HTV West except:**No variation.**

SCOTTISH As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Cartoon **11.00-12.00** Glen Michael Cavalcade **1.00pm-1.15** By the Way **1.30** Bullseye **2.00** Profile **2.30** Film: Mysterious Island **4.20-4.30** Cartoon **5.00-6.30** Scotsport **12.30am** Late Call, Closedown.

TSW As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Speedy Gonzales **1.00pm** Postscript Diary **1.10** Farming News **1.45-2.00** Link **4.30** Gardens for All **5.00** Knights of God **5.30** ALF **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **12.30am** Postscript, Closedown.

TVS As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Cartoon **1.00pm** Link **1.15** Action! **1.30-2.00** Farm Focus **4.30** Bullseye **5.00-6.30** Knights of God **3.15am** Company, Closedown.

TYNE TEES As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Hello Sunday **1.00** Farming Outlook **1.30** Billboard **1.45-2.00** Link **5.00** Who's The Boss? **5.30** Northern Life **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **12.30am** Closedown.

ULSTER As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Speedy Gonzales **1.00pm-1.15** Ask Anne **1.30-2.00** Farming Ulster **5.00** Finding Fex Future **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **12.30am** Sports Results **12.35** Closedown.

YORKSHIRE As London except:**9.25am-9.35** Cartoon **1.00pm** Cartoon **1.10** Link **1.25-2.00** Farming Diary **5.00** TV Censored Bloopers **6.00-6.30** Bullseye **11.45** Rugby League **12.45am** Five Minutes **12.50** Jobfinder **1.35** Closedown.

S4C Starts:**9.00am** Hafoc **10.00** World This Week **11.00** Pieced Pictures **11.30** Worzel Gummidge Down Under **12.00** Waltons **1.00pm** Arwyddion Ffyrdd **1.30** Quilts in Women's Lives **2.00** Film: Always Leave 'Em Laughing* **4.15** Equinox **5.15** Business Programme **6.00** American Football **7.15** Sam Tan **7.25** Newyddion **7.30** Rhaglen Hywel Gwynfryn **8.10** Pobol Y Cwm **8.40** Dechrau Canu, Dechrau Canmol **9.10** Hel Straeon **9.40** Badminton **10.25** St Elsewhere **11.20** Scotland Yard* **12.00** Closedown.

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TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

SATURDAY

CHOICE

● A film on London University made by the university's own audio-visual centre may not be the most objective or disinterested, but **Not Just Another University** (Channel 4, 6.30pm) does its best to play fair. Presented and co-written by Laurie Taylor, the programme has two themes. One is the university's unique size and structure. It has 50,000 students, four times as many as any other British university (apart from the Open University), while several of its colleges are large enough to be universities in their own right. This puts the federal structure under tension, leading to periodic threats of UDI. Secondly, Taylor charts the university's response to falling income, through the merging of colleges and the attempt to get more backing from industry. The university is also being forced to reappraise its relevance. Can it justify courses in Noh drama and Balinese theatre when the nation is crying out for trained scientists? Taylor raises the spectre of privatization. This was tried back in the 1820s. The flotation was so undersubscribed that nothing more was heard, but few would bet against Mrs Thatcher's resurrecting the idea.

Peter Waymark

Professor Laurie Taylor, presenter of the documentary Not Just Another University, Channel 4, at 6.30pm

BBC1

8.20 Roobarb (r). **8.25 Saturday Starts Here** with **Corners** (r). **8.40 ChuckleVision 9.00 The Muppet Babies 9.30 Going Live!.** The guests include actress Anita Dobson and pop group ABC. **12.12 Weather.**

12.15 Grandstand presented by Desmond Lynam. The line-up is (subject to alteration): **12.20 Football Focus; 12.40 Ski-ing** from Val d'Isère; **12.55, 1.25** and **1.55 Racing from Chepstow; 1.10 News; 1.15, 1.40** and **3.10 Diving:** the Sun Life Cup; **2.20 Boxing** from Belfast; **2.40 Rallying:** Lombard RAC highlights; **3.30** and **3.55 Ice Hockey:** Norwich Union Cup Final; **3.50** Half-times; **4.35** Final score.

5.05 News with Moira Stuart. Weather **5.15** Regional news/sport.

5.20 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time.

5.45 Telly Addicts. The Simons family from Penarth meet the Chinerys of Poole.

6.15 My Family and Other Animals. Episode eight. (Ceefax)

6.45 Bob's Full House. Bingo quiz game presented by Bob Monkhouse. (Ceefax)

7.20 'Allo 'Allo! Which one of the salami sausages contains dynamite? (Ceefax)

7.50 Casualty. Mary declines to treat her father when he is rushed to hospital with diabetes. (Ceefax)

8.40 Just Good Friends. Daphne is beside herself at being indebted to Rita Pinner (r). (Ceefax)

9.10 News and sport. With Moira Stuart. Weather.

9.25 Cagney and Lacey. Christine and Mary Beth investigate a case in which a woman is accused of being a witch. (Ceefax)

10.15 Live International Boxing. Herol Graham v Ricky Stackhouse at Adwick Leisure Centre, Doncaster.

11.05 Film: The Survivor (1981) starring Robert Powell. A pilot, the sole survivor of an air crash, searches for the reasons behind the disaster and the unnatural events that surrounded the tragedy. Directed by David Hemmings.

12.25 The Rockford Files. Jim helps an old friend who is accused of murder (r).

1.15 Weather.

BBC2

9.00 Ceefax 11.35 Open University.

1.30 Network East includes a discussion on Bhopal — three years on; a report on the fall and rise of pop music entrepreneur Morgan Khan; and an interview with actor Marc Zuber.

2.10 Film: All the Brothers Were Valiant (1953) starring Robert Taylor, Ann Blyth and Stewart Granger. Adventure yarn about a seafaring family and their search for whales and treasure. Directed by Richard Thorpe.

3.40 Film: The Wreck of the Mary Deare (1959) starring Gary Cooper and Charlton Heston. Marine and courtroom drama about a freighter captain who is the only person found on board a ship drifting in the English channel. Directed by Michael Anderson.

5.20 International Bridge Club presented by Clare Harrison.

5.50 España Viva. Part five of a Spanish course for beginners (r).

6.15 The Week in the Lords

6.55 NewsView and weather.

7.35 Ibiza 92. Highlights from a pop concert held in the Summer. Among those appearing are Freddie Mercury and Montserrat Caballé.

8.05 Gluck Bicentenary: Don Juan. From the Court Theatre of Drottningholm in Sweden, Gluck's ballet performed by Per Arthur Segerstroem, Anneli Alhanko, Markuu Heinonen and Haakon Mayer with artists of the Royal Swedish Ballet and the Orchestra of the Royal Swedish Opera House conducted by Thomas Schuback.

9.10 The Trireme Quest. The story of Cambridge professor John Morrison's dream of discovering the secrets of the Greek Trireme.

10.00 Film: That Obscure Object of Desire (1977) starring Fernando Rey. The story of a middle-aged man's obsession with his former maid. Directed by Luis Buñuel. (English subtitles)

11.45 Film: Man of Flowers (1984) starring Norman Kaye. A reclusive art collector, lost in memories of an idyllic childhood, tries to come to terms with the real world. Directed by Paul Cox. Ends at **1.20.**

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am 7.30 The Wide Awake Club.

9.25 No 73. Entertainment for the young **11.00 The Roxy.** Pop music programme (r). **11.30 Frocks on the Box** (r). **12.00 The Fall Guy.** Adventures of a stunt man. Starring Lee Majors.

1.00 News.

1.05 Saint & Greavsie. Ian and Jimmy look forward to tomorrow's televised game between Liverpool and Chelsea. **1.35 Wrestling** from Shrewsbury Music Hall.

2.15 Darts and Snooker introduced by Dickie Davies. Action from the Winmau World Masters Darts at the Rainbow Suite in Kensington and the Foster's World Snooker Doubles from Northampton.

4.45 Results Service.

5.00 News and sport.

5.05 Walt Disney Presents. Micky Mouse cartoon.

5.15 Blockbusters. General knowledge quiz for teenagers, presented by Bob Holness.

5.45 The A-Team. Murdock comes to the rescue of his three chums when they are captured by a paramilitary gang and threatened with death (r).

6.45 Copy Cats. Comedy impressions.

7.15 Blind Date. Boy meets girl show presented by Cilla Black. (Oracle)

8.00 Home to Roost. Comedy starring John Thaw and Reece Dinsdale. Last of the series. (Oracle)

8.30 Film: The Killer Who Wouldn't Die (1976) starring Mike Connors. A made-for-television thriller about a retired policeman who becomes involved in a plot to kill a world leader after he goes to the aid of a government agent friend whose cover has been blown. Directed by William Hale.

10.15 News and sport.

10.35 Snooker. The Foster's World Doubles from the Derngate arena, Northampton. Followed by **LWT News** headlines.

12.30 Sledge Hammer. Spoof detective series.

1.00 Night Network includes an interview with Mel Brooks.

4.00 T.J. Hooker. The detective's daughter is kidnapped. Starring William Shatner (r).

4.55 The Nice Triathlon. Highlights of the championships in the South of France. Ends at **6.00.**

CHANNEL 4

9.30 Coping with blindness (r). **10.00 Moneyspinner** (r). **10.30 Scotland's Story.** Part 20 (r). **11.00 Old Country** (r). **11.30 Dancin' Days** (r). **12.00 Make Your Own Video** (r). **12.30 The World of Animation.**

12.45 Channel 4 Racing from Sandown Park. The 12.55, 1.25, 2.00 and 2.30 races.

2.50 Film: The Ghost Train (1941, b/w) starring Arthur Askey. Comedy thriller about the passengers on a train stranded at a Cornish station. During the night the station-master is murdered. Directed by Walter Forde.

4.25 Magoo Slept Here. Cartoon.

4.30 Countdown.

5.05 Brookside (r). (Oracle)

6.00 Right to Reply. Video Box critics pan *Worzel Gummidge, Grange Hill* and *Never Say Die;* and Austin Reeves of the Deaf Broadcasting Council puts his case for a daily national news with sign language.

6.30 News sumary and weather followed by **Not Just Another University.** (see Choice)

7.30 Bandung File meets the last of the Cochin Jews in India and examines the housing crisis in Tower Hamlets.

8.30 Gnostics — The Debate. Elaine Pagels, Robert Hinnells and the Rt Rev John Hughes debate the nature of Gnostic doctrines.

9.30 A Fine Romance. Domestic comedy series (r). (Oracle)

10.00 St Elsewhere. Dr Craig bails out Dr Auschlander after he is held in a drugs raid

11.00 Late Night with David Letterman. The guests include Ruth Westheimer.

11.50 Film: Performance (1970) starring James Fox and Mick Jagger. Thriller about a gang chief's henchman who finds himself being hunted by both the police and underworld acquaintances. Directed by Donald Cammell and Nicolas Roeg.

1.50 The Mysteries of Edgar Wallace: Strangler's Web (1963, b/w). A man is found by his murdered fianceé and arrested but investigations reveal she had a number of enemies. Starring Griffith Jones and directed by John Moxey. Ends at **2.50.**

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below).
News on the half-hour until **12.30pm**, then at **2.00, 3.30, 5.30, 7.30, 9.30** and **12.00** midnight
6.00am Simon Mayo **8.00** Peter Powell **10.00** Mike Read **1.00pm** Adrian Juste **2.00** The Stereo Sequence. Includes **2.30-3.00** My Top Ten (Andy Peebles talks to Ben Volpeliere-Pierrot) **4.00-5.00** The New American Chart Show (Laura Gross reporting from Los Angeles) **6.30-7.00** In Concert (featuring Lloyd Cole and the Commotions, at Nottingham) **7.30** Robbie Vincent **10.00-12.00** Nicky Campbell. **VHF** Stereo Radios 1 and 2: **4.00am** As Radio 2 **1.00pm** As Radio 1 **7.30-4.00am** As Radio 2.

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1)
News on the hour. Sports Desks **7.05am, 8.05, 9.02, 10.02, 11.02, 12.01pm, 10.02**
4.00am Dave Bussey **6.00** Steve Truelove **8.05** David Jacobs **9.00** Sounds of the 60s (with Frank Allen from the Searchers) **10.00** Michael Aspel **12.00** Album Time **1.00pm** The News Huddlines **1.30** Sport on 2. Includes Rugby Union (Northern v London South, and South West v Midlands) and Racing from Sandown Park. **5.00** Sports Report **6.00** Brain on Sport 1987 **6.30** Look What They've Done To My Song **7.00** Beat the Record (Keith Fordyce) **7.30** Rodgers and Hammerstein at the Royal Festival Hall **9.30** String Sound **10.05** Martin Kelner **12.05am** Dave Gelly **1.00** Bill Rennells **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music.

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times given in GMT
6.00 am Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours 7.30 From The Weeklies 7.45 Network UK 8.00 News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 News 9.09 Commentary 9.15 World Today 9.30 Financial News followed by Sports Roundup 9.45 Personal View 10.00 News 10.01 Here's Humph! 10.15 Letter From America 10.30 People and Politics 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 A-Z of Hollywood 11.30 Londres Midi 12.00 Radio Newsreel 12.15 Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours 1.30 Network UK 1.45 Good Books 2.00 News 2.01 Album Time 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Sportsworld 4.00 News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Sportsworld 5.00 News 5.01 Sportsworld 5.15 English by Radio 5.45 Londres Soir 6.30 Heute Aktuel 8.00 News 8.09 24 Hours 8.30 Mondain 9.00 News 9.01 Tech Talk 9.15 Mozart Miscellany 9.30 People and Politics 10.00 News 10.09 From Our Own Correspondent 10.30 New Ideas 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Nature Notebook 11.30 Anything Goes 12.00 News 12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Malice in Opera 1.00 News 1.01 Play of the Week: Collaborators 2.00 News 2.09 Sunday Papers 2.15 The Man of Property 2.30 Album Time 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 From Our Own Correspondent 3.30 Quote, Unquote 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Six Four Eight 4.35 Financial News 4.45 Morgenmagazin 5.45 Letter From America

Regional TV: on facing page

Radio 3

6.55 Weather **7.00** News

7.05 Morning Concert: Rossini (Barber of Seville Overture: Academy of St Martin-in-the-Fields under Neville Marriner), Mendelssohn (Rondo capriccioso, Op 14: Murray Perahia, piano), Brahms (Nänie: Bavarian Radio SO and Chorus), Elgar (La Capricieuse: Zukerman, violin, and Neikrug, piano), Rameau (Dardanus, Acts 2 and 3: English Baroque Soloists under John Eliot Gardiner) **8.00** News

8.05 Concert (contd): Rimsky-Korsakov (Sadko, musical picture: Rotterdam Philharmonic Choir), Balakirev (Islamey: Cherkassky, piano), Mozart (L'amero saro costante: Lucia Popp, soprano, with the Munich Radio Orchestra), Tchaikovsky (Italian Caprice: Dallas SO under Eduardo Mata) **9.00** News

9.05 Record Review: includes Arnold Whittall's guide to recordings of Bruckner's Symphony No 7; and reviews of new Bach and Handel records. Introduced by Paul Vaughan

10.15 Stereo Release: Handel (Organ Concerto in B flat, Op 7 No 1: Hurford with Concertgebouw CO), Bach (the cantata No 106: with Bach Ensemble and soloists including Ann Monoyios, soprano), Handel (Organ Concerto in D minor, Op 7 No 4: Hurford with Concertgebouw SO)

11.15 Royal Liverpool Philharmonic, under Libor Pesek. With Jorge Bolet (piano). Mozart (Symphony No 36), Liszt (Piano Concerto No 1 and Totentanz, G 126), Dvorak (The Golden Spinning Wheel) **1.00** News

1.05 String Quartets in Salzburg: Roth Quartet play Dvorak's Quartet in E flat, Op 51; and Shostakovich's Quartet No 2

2.10 Schubert: Edith Vogel (piano) plays Sonata in A, D 959

3.00 Screen Scores: Prokofiev (Lieutenant Kijé: London Philharmonic); Shostakovich (The Gadfly, played by Moscow Radio SO; and Overture and Farewell, A Year is Worth a Lifetime, played by same orchestra)

5.00 Jazz Record Requests: presented by Peter Clayton

5.45 Critics' Forum: topics include Attenborough's film Cry Freedom; and the French play Un zoom de trop (Radio 3, last night)

6.35 Josef Suk: the violinist (with Josef Hala, piano) plays Brahms's Scherzo, Suk's Evening Mood, Janacek's A Blown-Away Leaf, Beethoven's Sonata in G, Op 96; Martinu's Sonata No 2; and Dvorak's Sonata in F, Op 57

8.00 Tosca: Puccini's three-act opera, sung in Italian. Direct from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden. Giuseppe Sinopoli conducts. with Eva Marton (in the title role), Peter Dvorsky (Cavaradossi), Ingvar Wixell (Scarpia) and Roderick Earle (Angelotti). Act one

8.45 The Mapleson Memoirs, 1858-88: Edward de Souza reads part one of the work by Anthony Besch: Sick Tenors and Full Houses

9.10 Tosca: the second act

9.55 The Mapleson Memoirs: part two. The National Opera House on the Embankment

10.15 Tosca: third and final act of the Puccini opera

10.55 The House of the Broken Pediment: Michael Deacon reads the story by Alan David Price

11.10 The Inchanted Forrest: London Handel Orchestra under Denys Darlow perform the dramatic score by Francesco Geminiani

11.57 News **12.00** Closedown

Radio 4

LW (long wave). (s) Stereo on VHF

5.55 Shipping Forecast **6.00** News Briefing; Weather **6.10** Farming Week **6.50** Prayer **6.55** Weather

7.00 Today, incl **7.00, 8.00** News **7.25** Sport **7.30, 8.30** News **7.40, 8.47** Today's Papers **7.45** In Perspective **7.55, 8.58** Weather **8.35** Yesterday in Parliament

9.00 News

9.05 Sport on 4: with Cliff Morgan

9.30 Breakaway: Bernard Falk reports on the holiday and travel scene

10.00 News; Loose Ends: hosted by Ned Sherrin

11.00 News; The Week in Westminster: Peter Kellner, of the Independent, presents a personal review of the week

11.30 From Our Own Correspondent

12.00 Money Box: Presented by Louise Botting

12.25 The News Quiz: Barry Took chairs the topical quiz with teams led by Alan Coren and Ian Hislop **12.55** Weather

1.00 News

1.10 Any Questions? Joining Jonathan Dimbleby are Shirley Williams, Frances Morrell, Enoch Powell and Lord St John of Fawsley. From Wallingford, Oxfordshire (r) (s) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; Second Edition: Gillian Reynolds and her guests discuss some of the best of Radio 4's magazine programmes

3.00 News; Play: Lily and Colin — Light Over The Bay, by Elisabeth Bond. With Janette Beverley, Paul Copley, and George Parsons in the cast. Drama about an older man who runs off with a young girl (s)

4.15 The Gardener's Tale: John Sales, Chief Gardens Adviser for the National Trust, talks to Malcolm Billings about his work at a new acquisition, Biddulph Grange, in Staffordshire

4.30 Science Now: Presented by Alun Lewis

5.00 Conversation Piece: Sue MacGregor talks to pianist John Lill about his life and work (r)

5.25 Week Ending: satirical view of the week's news **5.50** Shipping **5.55** Weather

6.00 News; incl Sports Round-Up

6.25 Citizens: Omnibus Edition of Sold as Seen (s)

7.10 Stop the Week with Robert Robinson

7.45 Saturday-Night Theatre: An Englishman's Home, by Ray Ball. Cst includes Christopher Godwin and Brigit Forsyth. Comedy about caravan world rivalry

9.00 Music in Mind: Richard Baker presents a selection of words and music

9.50 Ten to Ten: A reading, a hymn and reflection led by Richard Harries (s)

9.59 Weather

10.00 News

10.15 The Saturday Feature: The Mighty Spud. Chris Serle is joined by chefs and growers in a celebration and tasting session of some of the many different varieties of potatoes

10.45 Conservative Blues: Adventures in the jazz trade, by Jeff Nuttall

11.00 Up The Garden Path: Imelda Staunton stars in a dramatization of the novel by Sue Limb (5)

11.30 Star Terk II: Jeffrey Holland, Christopher Godwin, Susie Blake and Fred Harris in a comedy by Terry Ravenscroft (s)

12.00 News; Weather **12.33** Shipping

VHF as above except: **1.55-2.00pm** Programme News **4.30-6.00** Options: **4.30** Community Matters **5.00** Espana Viva **5.30** L'Italia dal vivo (Second State Italian

SUNDAY

Timothy West (Gorbachov) and Robert Beatty (President Reagan) in Breakthrough at Reykjavik: ITV, 8.45pm

CHOICE

● Ronald Reagan squares up to Mikhail Gorbachov in **Breakthrough at Reykjavik** (ITV, 8.45pm). With the new summit about to begin in Washington, this is a re-run of the last one, dramatized from the available facts by Ronald Harwood. In Harwood's reading, it is Gorbachov who takes the initative, rocking the underprepared Americans with the boldness of his proposals. Reagan (a convincing performance by Robert Beatty, who both looks and sounds the part) comes over as slow and ponderous. Forced back on the ropes in the first round, the Americans try to maul themselves out of trouble. The progress of the talks is deftly charted, and if the alphabet soup of SDI and INF and ABM sometimes becomes indigestible, the incidental details are delightful. At one point, the American team sends a document out to be photocopied. But Icelandic security is so tight that no photocopier has been allowed in the building. The Russians come up with the answer: carbon paper. I should add that Timothy West, who in his time has acted Churchill, Stalin and Sir Thomas Beecham, has little trouble with Gorbachov. And it is not just having the right hairstyle.

P.W.

BBC1

8.55 Play School 9.15 Articles of Faith. Should God be adored? **9.30 This is the Day** from a viewer's home in Stirchley, Birmingham.

10.00 Talking Business (r). **10.55 Telejournal** (r). **11.20 A vous la France!** (r). **11.45 Sign Extra.** Educating deaf children in Northern Ireland **12.10 See Hear.** For the hearing impaired.

12.35 Farming examines nitrate pollution in Britain's water supplies. **12.58 Weather.**

1.00 This Week Next Week. The Liberal/SDP Alliance. Vivian White talks to David Steel and Robert Maclennan **2.00 EastEnders** (r). (Ceefax)

3.00 Film: Meet Me at the Fair (1952) starring Dan Dailey and Diana Lynn. Music, comedy and romance combine in this story about a pair of peripatetic showmen who discover a young man with a beautiful voice. Directed by Douglas Sirk.

4.25 A Royal Family Album. The Duke of York talks about Queen Victoria's private collection of photographs (r). (Ceefax)

5.15 Watchdog. Consumer affairs series.

5.40 Vanity Fair. Episode 14. (Ceefax)

6.10 Working the System. Getting the best from your MP. (Ceefax)

6.20 News and weather.

6.35 Songs of Praise from Zimbabwe. (Ceefax)

7.15 Ever Decreasing Circles. Martin blows his top when his office space is halved. (Ceefax)

7.45 Only Fools and Horses. Del's plans for Christmas are upset by the upper crust (r). (Ceefax)

9.05 News and weather.

9.20 Body Contact. A musical film starring Joely Richardson and Ricco Ross. A young taxi driver is beguiled by a beautiful and mysterious passenger who is on the run from her violent Mafia lover. (Ceefax)

10.30 Everyman: A Saint for Our Time. The controversy between the Roman Catholics and Jews over the beatification of Sister Teresia Benedicta who was born Jewish.

11.10 The Secret Life of Paintings. Lady Wedgwood examines *The Ambassadors,* by Hans Holbein (r).

11.50 Network East (r).

12.30 Weather.

BBC2

9.00 Ceefax 9.15 Now on Two begins with **Janosch's Story Time 9.40 Whirlybirds** (b/w) (r). **10.05 Odysseus** (r). **10.20 The Charlie Brown and Snoopy Show**

10.40 Now It's You. Junior *Points of View* **10.45 Blue Peter Omnibus** (r). **11.30 Aliens in the Family.** Episode three (r). (Ceefax)

12.00 Windmill. Hands is the theme for this first of a new series. Presented by Chris Serle **1.00 No Limits** (r).

2.00 Rugby Special. Highlights from North Division v London Division and Pontypool against Glamorgan Wanderers.

2.40 World Bowls. The Midland Bank World Indoor Pairs Championship from Bournemouth.

5.10 Music in Camera. Bernice Reagon and her group, Sweet Honey in the Rock, in concert.

5.50 Ski Sunday. The Men's Downhill from Val d'Isère.

6.30 The Money Programme, presented by Brian Widlake and Valerie Singleton, includes a look at the prospects of a successful return of the linen industry to Northern Ireland.

7.15 The Travel Show Guide to Tunisia.

7.50 The Great Philosophers. Professor Hubert Dreyfus of the University of California at Berkeley discusses Husserl, Heidegger and Modern Existentialism. (Ceefax)

8.40 The Natural World: Okavango — Jewel of the Kalahari. The first of three programmes about the wildlife of the Okavango Delta. (Ceefax)

9.35 Did You See. . ? Jeremy Lloyd, David Pirie and Frances Edmonds comment on *It's Garry Shandling's Show, A Perfect Spy* and *An Idea of Europe.*

10.20 World Bowls. The Midland Bank World Indoor Pairs Championship.

10.30 Film: Valdez is Coming (1970) starring Burt Lancaster and Susan Clark. Revenge drama about a Mexican constable who is in conflict with a wealthy, despotic landowner. Directed by Edwin Sherin.

12.00 World Bowls. Further coverage from the Bournemouth International Conference Centre. Ends at **1.00.**

ITV/LONDON

6.00 TV-am 9.25 Wake Up London 9.35 He-Man and the Masters of the Universe (r). **10.00 No 73.** Entertainment for the young **10.30 The Adventures of Black Beauty** (r).

11.00 Morning Worship from Our Lady St Mary of Glastonbury Church.

12.00 Weekend World. Does the Summit mean the end of the domination of the two super powers? With Denis Healey, Edward Heath and David Owen.

1.00 LWT News headlines followed by **Police 5** with Shaw Taylor **1.10 Link.** For the disabled **1.30 The Smurfs** (r).

2.00 The Human Factor. How easy credit at Christmas can become a nightmare in the New Year.

2.30 The Big Match Live. Liverpool v Chelsea. The commentator at Anfield is Martin Tyler.

4.30 Knights of God. The final episode. (Oracle)

5.00 Bullseye. Darts and general knowledge game.

5.30 Sunday Sunday. Gloria Hunniford's guests are Mel Brooks, John Alderton, Rory Bremner, Jan Francis and Samantha Fox.

6.30 News.

6.45 Highway. Sir Harry Secombe visits Holy Island.

7.15 Laughs from the Palladium. Jimmy Tarbuck introduces highlights from the *Live from the Palladium* series.

8.15 Tales of the Unexpected: The Party. Starring Robert Morley as a toy firm boss who is not looking forward to Christmas (r).

8.45 Breakthrough at Reykjavik. (see Choice)

9.45 News.

10.05 Spitting Image.

10.35 The South Bank Show. A profile of rock guitarist Eric Clapton.

11.45 LWT News headlines followed by **Snooker.** Foster's World Doubles.

12.30 Mary. Comedy series starring Mary Tyler Moore.

1.00 Night Network includes Jethro Tull and the best of *Beat Club.*

3.15 The Magic Wok. Chinese cuisine.

3.30 The Lawless Years. New York during Prohibition.

4.00 TV Censored Bloopers.

4.55 World Series Baseball '87. St Louis Cardinals v Minnesota Twins. Ends at **6.00.**

CHANNEL 4

9.25 Movie Mahal (colour and b/w). Part 12 of the history of the film industry in India.

10.00 The World This Week.

11.00 Pob's Programme for children. The guest is Cheryl Campbell **11.30 Worzel Gummidge Down Under 12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Treasure Hunt** on the Isle of Wight (r). **2.00 Empress Wu.** Part 10.

2.30 Film: The Rains Came (1939, b/w) starring Myrna Loy and Tyrone Power. How pampered people living in India discovered new selfs through experiencing an earthquake, a flood and an epidemic. Directed by Clarence Brown.

4.25 Kubin/Coubine — A Forgotten Painter. The story of the painter who was all the rage from the 1920s to the 1940s but by the centenary of his birth in 1983 he was virtually forgotten.

5.15 News summary and weather followed by **The Business Programme.** Includes interviews with Sir Nigel Broakes, on Trafalgar House prospects, and Peter de Savary on his plans for Land's End and Falmouth Docks; and an item on the chances of making money out of cinemas.

6.00 American Football. The featured game is New York Giants at the Washington Redskins.

7.15 What on Earth Is Going On?. Monthly magazine series on environmental matters presented by Paul Heiney.

8.15 An Idea of Europe. Part five of Richard Hoggart's series on how Europe is seen by the rest of the world. (Oracle)

8.45 E.P. — Sculptor. A profile of leading British sculptor Eduardo Paolozzi.

9.55 Film: The Fighting Sullivans (1944, b/w). Second World War drama following the lives of five Americans from Iowa who enlisted in the US Navy. Starring Anne Baxter and directed by Lloyd Bacon.

12.00 Film: The Guilty Party (1962, b/w) starring Anthony Jacobs and Zena Marshall. A businessman and his wife, living under the threat of bankruptcy, come up with a plan to ease their financial plight. Directed by Lionel Harris. Ends at **12.35.**

Radio 1

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see below)
News on the half-hour until **12.30pm**, then at **3.30, 4.30, 7.30, 9.30** and **12.00** midnight
6.00am Simon Mayo **8.00** Peter Powell **10.00** Dave Lee Travis **1.00pm** Sunday Oldies with Mike Read **3.00** Radio Scruples (Simon Mayo) **3.30** Backchat (with Liz Kershaw and Ro Newton) **4.00** Chartbusters **5.00** Top 40 **7.00** Anne Nightingale Request Show **9.00** Andy Peebles Soul Train **11.00-12.00** Ranking Miss P. **VHF** Stereo Radios 1 and 2: **4.00am** As Radio 2 **5.00pm** As Radio 1 **12.00-4.00am** As Radio 2

Radio 2

MW (medium wave). Stereo on VHF (see Radio 1)
News on the hour (except **8.00pm**). Sports Desks **7.02am, 8.05, 9.05, 12.02pm, 6.02, 10.02**
4.00am Dave Bussey **6.00** Steve Truelove **7.30** Good Morning Sunday **9.05** Melodies for You (Richard Baker with his record selection) **11.00** Desmond Carrington **2.00pm** Benny Green **3.00** Alan Dell **4.00** Moira Anderson's Serenade **4.30** Cliff Adams Singers **5.00** Sunday Soapbox **7.00** Living with Betty (Barbara Windsor) **7.30** Ian Wallace Presents Barry Took **8.30** Sunday Half-Hour (from Hope Park Church, St Andrews) **9.00** Your Hundred Best Tunes **10.05** Songs from the Shows **10.45** Don Innes **11.00** Sounds of Jazz **1.00m** Bill Rennells **3.00-4.00** A Little Night Music

WORLD SERVICE

All programme times given in GMT
6.00am Newsdesk 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 News 7.09 24 Hours 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Waveguide 8.00 News 8.09 Reflections 8.15 The Pleasure's Yours 9.00 News 9.09 Sunday Papers 9.15 Science in Action 9.45 On the Road 10.00 News 10.01 Story 10.15 Classical Record Review 10.30 Sunday Service 11.00 News 11.09 News About Britain 11.15 From Our Own Correspondent 11.30 Londres Midi 12.00 News 12.01 Play of the Week: Collaborators 1.00 News 1.09 24 Hours 1.30 Sports Roundup 1.45 Sandi Jones Request Show 2.30 Quote, Unquote 3.00 Radio Newsreel 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.09 Commentary 4.15 Guilty to be Alive 5.00 News 5.09 Reflections 5.15 English by Radio 5.45 Londres Soir 6.30 Heute Aktuel 8.00 News 8.09 Twenty-Four Hours 8.30 Sunday Half Hour 9.00 News 9.01 Short Story 9.15 The Pleasure's Yours 10.00 News 10.09 The Man Of Property 10.25 Book Choice 10.30 Financial Review 10.40 Reflections 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.09 Commentary 11.15 Letter from America 11.30 Questions of Faith 12.00 News 12.09 News About Britain 12.15 Radio Newsreel 12.30 Religious Service 1.00 News 1.01 Sergeant Pepper 1.45 Organists of Paris 2.00 News 2.09 Commentary 2.15 Peebles' Choice 2.30 Science in Action 3.00 News 3.09 News About Britain 3.15 Good Books 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Six Four Eight 4.35 Financial News 4.45 Morgenmagazin 5.45 Recording of the Week

Radio 3

6.55 Weather **7.00** News

7.05 English Pastorals: recordings including Delius's Brigg Fair: An English Rhapsody (RPO), Patrick Hadley's Rhapsody: One Morning in Spring: LPO), Vaughan Williams's Norfolk Rhapsody No 1: New Philharmonia), Moeran's Lonely Waters (Ann Murray, mezzo, with ECO), and Grainger's My Robin is to the Greenwood Gone (Bournemouth Sinfonietta) **8.00** World Service News

8.10 Lili Kraus (piano): Mozart's Piano Concerto No 24 (with Vienna Festival Orchestra), and the Piano Trio in E, K 542 (with Boskovsky, violin, and Hubner, cello) **9.00** News

9.05 Your Concert Choice: Monteverdi (Gloria a 7, Selva morale e spirituale: Les Arts Florrisants), Walton (Quartet in A minor: Gabrieli Quartet), Donizetti (Da quel di che t'incontrai, Linda di Chamounix: Sutherland and Pavarotti, with National PO), Niels Gade (Symphony No 1: Stockholm Sinfonietta)

10.30 Music Weekly: includes a conversation with the bass clarinettist Harry Sparnaay; and John McCabe on Haydn and the Piano

11.15 Chilingirian Quartet: Frankel's Quartet No 5, and Beethoven's Quartet in F, Op 135

12.15 Words: a talk by Dr Mark Elvin, Fellow of St Antony's College, Oxford

12.20 Bayreuth Festival 1987: a performance of Wagner's three-act Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg. Conducted by Michael Schonwandt. Heading the cast are Bernd Weikl (Hans Sachs), Lucy Peacock, Reiner Goldberg, Marga Schiml, Alan Opie, and Manfred Schenk. Act one. The second act is at **1.45**, and the third at **2.50**, with interval readings

5.00 Eminent Hungarians: Erzsabet Rusa (piano) plays Seven Hungarian Historical Portraits, by Liszt

5.30 I'm not Sharing: Ronald Hayman presents scenes and images from the works of the German novelist Botho Strauss. The performers include Harriet Walter and David Garth, and the contributors include Julian Hilton, Michael Hulse and Sybille Wirsing

6.15 Vaughan Williams: Hallé Orchestra under Andrew Davis perform The Wasps overture; Fantasia on a theme by Tallis; and Symphony No 2

7.30 Glasgow Xenakis Festival 1987: New Music Group of Scotland perform Xenakis's Mikka, for violin; Mikka-S, for violin; Embellie for viola, and Mycenes Alpha for pre-recorded tape. Also Messiaen's Visions de l'Amen

9.00 A Most Delightful Art: Hilliard Ensemble perform secular music of Renaissance Italy, including works by Philippe de Monte and Giaches de Wert

9.30 The 1987 Reith Lectures: Alexander Goehr on The Survival of the Symphony (3).

10.00 Tradition ist Schlamperei: recordings of Debussy's Jeux (Santa Cecilia Orchestra), Xenakis's Lichens 1 (Leicestershire Schools SO), and Messiaen's Chronochromie (BBC SO)

10.55 Bournemouth Sinfonietta, under Jean-Bernard Pommier (piano). Mozart's Piano Concerto No 18, Fauré's Masques et bergamasques, Op 112; and Honegger's Concertino for piano and orchestra **11.57** News

4.55 am. Second Test: Pakistan v England. On MW and VHF, but on MW only from **6.55am**

Radio 4

LW (long wave). (s) Stereo on VHF

5.55 Shipping **6.00** News Briefing; Weather **6.10** Prelude

6.30 News; Morning Has Broken

7.00 News **7.10** Sunday Papers **7.15** On Your Farm (Clive Jacobs and Ted Harrison)

8.00 News **8.10** Sunday Papers

8.50 The Week's Good Cause (Finchale Training College for Disabled)

9.00 News **9.10** Sunday Papers

9.15 Letter from America

9.30 Morning Service (from Princes Street United Reform Church, Norwich)

10.15 The Archers

11.15 News Stand: with Frances Wheen

11.30 Pick of the Week: Highlights of last week's television and radio programmes

12.15 Desert Island Discs: Michael Parkinson's guest is actor Antony Sher **12.55** Weather

1.00 The World This Weekend

2.00 Gardeners' Question Time: a visit to the Usk in Bloom Committee in Gwent

2.30 The True Heart by Sylvia Townsend Warner (first of two parts). Cast includes Tilly Vosburgh (as the orphan) and Mick Ford (s). The setting: the Essex marshes, 1873

3.30 The Radio Programme: presented by Laurie Taylor

4.00 News; Centenary, My Dear Watson: the centenary pilgrimage made by Sherlock Holmes Society across Switzerland to the Reichenbach Falls. With Susan Marling

4.47 The Butterfly Collectors: the collection of 2½ million butterflies amassed by the second Lord Rothschild

5.00 News; Down Your Way: Union leader Brenda Dean visits Blackpool

6.00 News

6.15 At Least It's Live: Susan Marling meets theatrical folk. (4) Red Stocking

6.30 International Assignment. BBC correspondents report

7.00 News; Soundings Symbols of Hope. Hope Sealy meets Anglican Bishop David Sheppard and Roman Catholic Archbishop Derek Worlock of Liverpool

7.30 Raffles, by E W Hornung. The Ides of March, dramatized by David Buck. With Jeremy Clyde (Raffles) and Michael Cochrane (Bunny) (2)

8.00 Bookshelf: Nigel Forde delves into Good Housekeeping magazine's reprints of wartime editions

8.30 A Word in Edgeways: Brian Redhead talks about ritual with Dr Eric Midwinter, Ted Polhemus and The Rev Norman Wallwork

9.00 News; Times Present: Ian Skidmore talks to taxidermist Sandy Jarosz

9.15 The Natural History Programme, with Fergus Keeling and Jessica Holm

10.00 News

10.15 The Making of Médée: behind the scenes at rehearsals for Cherubini's Médée which opened at Sydney Opera House last August, starring Elizabeth Connell (r)

11.00 The Root of the Matter (key political issues). With David Lomax

11.30 Seeds of Faith. Ian Bradley reflects on the place of water as a religious symbol of death

12.00 News; Weather **12.33** Shipping

VHF as above except: **7.00-7.40am** Open University: **7.00** Technology **7.20** Into the Open **4.00-6.00** Options: 4.00 Man Masters Nature **4.30** Education Matters **5.00** A vous la France! **5.30** Espana Viva **5.45** Language Extra

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1:1053kHz/285m;1089kHz/275m; **Radio 2:** 693kHz/433m; 909kHz/330m; **Radio 3:** 1215kHz/247m:VHF-90-92.5; **Radio 4:** 200kHz/1500m: VHF-92-95; **LBC:**1152kHz/261m: VHF 97.3; **Capital:** 1548kHz/194m: VHF95.8; **BBC Radio London:** 1458kHz/206m: VHF 94.9; **World Service:** MF 648kHz/463m.

Reagan tells 'Izvestia' of Kremlin's SDI plans

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

President Reagan last night used a rare interview with an official Soviet newspaper to defend his Star Wars programme and to accuse Moscow of pioneering research into strategic defences which the Kremlin has repeatedly described as the main obstacle to further nuclear arms control agreements.

Izvestia devoted nearly a full page to the interview in which Mr Reagan denied that the Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) constituted a destabilizing militarization of space. "The world will be a safer place if both superpowers shift towards strategic defences while radically reducing strategic offensive arsenals," he said in remarks aimed at next week's Washington summit.

Mr Reagan, whose only previous interview with the paper was shortly before the Geneva summit in 1985, went on: "Since both sides are determined to explore advanced strategic defences, we propose that our two sides talk in practical terms about how we can make a transition jointly and safely to greater reliance on such defences. It would make us all more secure."

The open publication of Mr Reagan's charges about the Kremlin conducting its own SDI research came after the surprise decision by Soviet television earlier this week to carry in full Mr Mikhail Gorbachov's admission, in a US television interview, that the Soviet Union was conducting basic research in areas covered by the American SDI programme.

The growing openness by the Kremlin about its own work in the Star Wars field is seen by Western diplomats as an optimistic pointer for next week's summit.

President Reagan told *Izvestia* that he was optimistic the Washington summit would make progress on the proposal to cut the long-range nuclear arsenals of both superpowers by 50 per cent.

"There have been intensive discussions on this over the last few weeks, and I am optimistic. I am hopeful that General Secretary Gorbachov and I will make progress in Washington," he added.

Mr Reagan also used the interview to comment on the Soviet reform programme, which is facing much internal resistance. "This is primarily your internal concern, of course, but there is no question that it can have international significance as well," he told Soviet readers. "It could contribute to an improved international climate and a relaxation of tensions."

● **PEKING:** The principal Chinese leader, Mr Deng Xiaoping, yesterday rebuffed Mr Gorbachov's offer to meet, repeating his demand that Moscow must urge Vietnam to withdraw from Cambodia before any such talks took place (Reuter reports).

BBC claims no breach of national security

Continued from page 1

the Government had learnt only on Thursday about the content of the programme when it had been advertised in the *Radio Times*, trailed on the radio, discussed with the D notice committee and security officials and contained interviews with former Cabinet ministers.

Conservative backbenchers voiced concern outside the chamber that the Government had over-reacted, fearing that the series would undermine its long battle to suppress publication of the Peter Wright memoirs, *Spycatcher*.

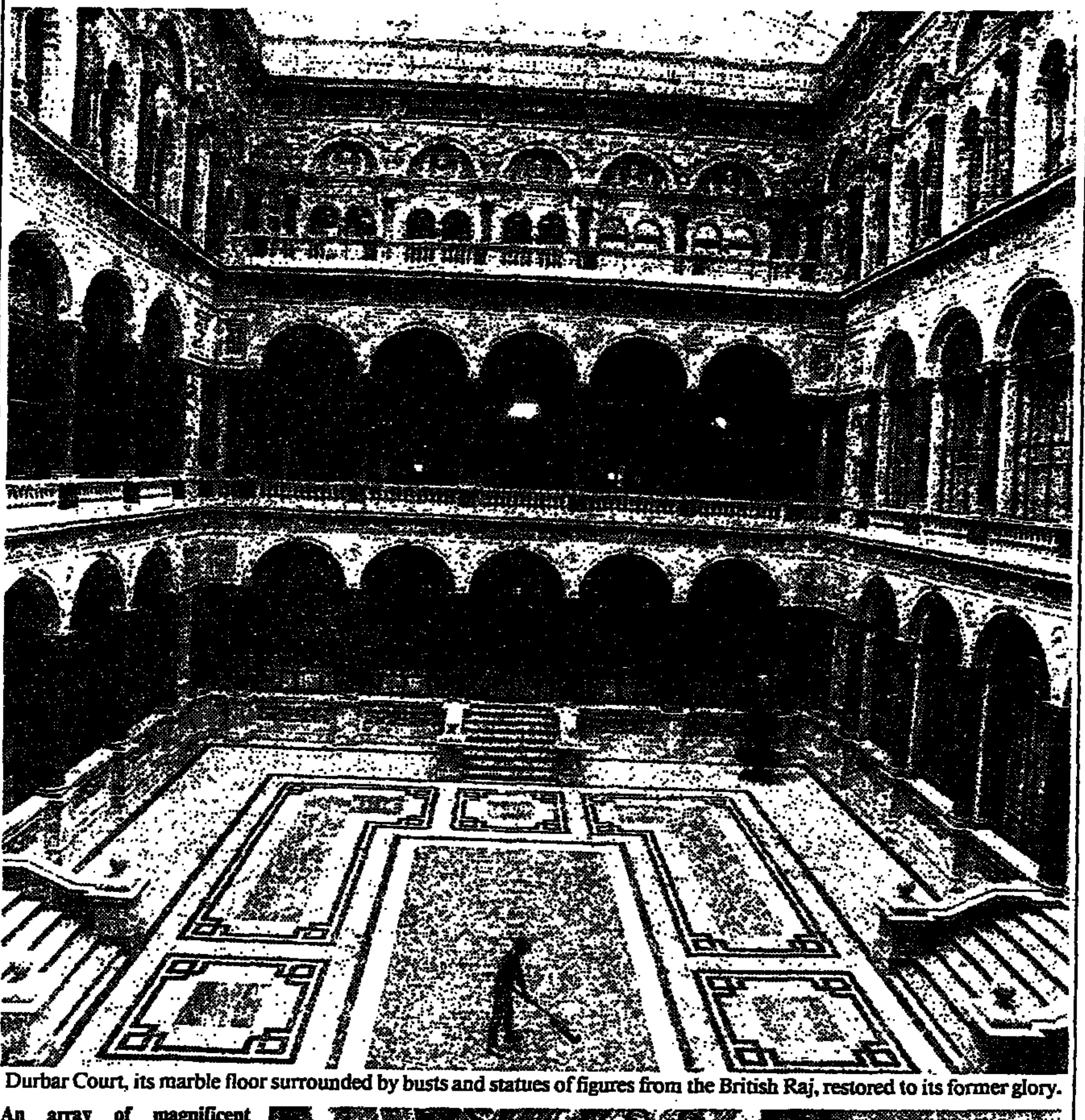
The Guild of British Newspaper Editors expressed concern about the "extent to which the law of confidence is now being used by the Government".

Admiral Higginssaid last night that the BBC had refused to give him a transcript of the radio series. He was also only told two of the names of the former MI5 and MI6 officers appearing in the programmes.

He said the two names he was given were "well-known talkers" and from the discussions he held with the BBC he felt reassured that the programmes did not raise matters of national security.

It emerged that Admiral Higgins had made the first approach over the radio programme after spotting details in the *Radio Times*. The BBC had agreed to see him to discuss the content.

Hidden treasures of Whitehall



Durbar Court, its marble floor surrounded by busts and statues of figures from the British Raj, restored to its former glory.

An array of magnificent decorations has been uncovered in Whitehall by workmen restoring the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The decorated ceilings, part of a suite of grand banquet and conference rooms dating from 1867 and covered with gilt and finely painted designs, had been hidden for 40 years by ugly acoustic tiles.

Forty years ago the rooms, collectively known as the Locarno Suite, were divided into small offices as functional efficiency took precedence.

A £7 million facelift by the Property Services Agency is turning the clock back. The suite was named after the 1925 Locarno Treaty, which guaranteed European frontiers after the First World War. Originally three grand rooms, it was once the scene of great banquets for visiting ambassadors and royalty.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Offices were designed in an Italianate style by Sir George Scott. The building is full of striking neo-classical features including painted domed ceilings, gilt reliefs, patterned walls, murals and marble columns.

A workman uncovers the ornate office ceilings which were covered by tiles for 40 years.

Poll-tax plan under attack from all sides

Continued from page 1

government finance next year.

Dr John Cunningham, Labour's environment spokesman, said the party was under no obligation to produce its proposals until the next general election.

However, party chiefs are pressing ahead with consultations about a new policy to meet criticism that it has no alternative to set against Mr Nicholas Ridley's measures.

Dr Cunningham described the Government Bill as "the most regressive and unfair proposals Britain has seen from any Government".

He said that more people would lose than gain and it would mean a massive invasion of privacy. "A very large new financial burden will be placed upon those least able to pay, and the complete absence of any proposals for how a rebate system would work and who would benefit is scandalous".

Conservative backbench opinion is divided on the issue with many supporting the principle but with misgivings over the detail.

Sir George Young, a former environment minister, hopes to gain support from a number of Conservative rebels for his plans for a system related to each person's tax band. He said that under the graduated community charge, a person's ability to pay would be taken into account with a student nurse living in Camden, north London, paying £50 as opposed to £700 under the Government's proposal.

"If you are much better off you might pay £2,000 instead of the millionaire and the bus driver all paying around £500-£600".

The proposals had become more unpopular with the public during the last six months as ministers had toured the country trying to sell them. "I think there is a gut reaction that what the Government is trying to do is unfair."

Sir George said that one of the few ways in which the Labour Party could win the next general election was if the Conservatives pressed ahead with its flat rate charge.

With the introduction of the Unified Business Rate leading to increases ranging from 1 per cent to 91 per cent, several Conservative backbenchers expressed alarm at the effects on local businesses, many of which provided the backbone of party support.

Mr Vivian Bendall, Conservative MP for Ilford North, said he had told government whips of his concern at the increase in the business rate which he feared could cripple many small companies and shops.

But Mr Ron Taylor, director general of the Association of British Chambers of Commerce, welcomed the proposals. He said it had long argued that the rating system was damaging to business and it hoped to work with government to ensure that the phasing in of the business rate would not impose extensive costs on some businesses.

Thatcher calls for binding reforms

Continued from page 1

duced, "agreement between two does not necessarily mean agreement among the Twelve." Mrs Thatcher remained adamant in her refusal to consider any reduction in Britain's budget rebate as a result of a proposed new revenue system to increase EEC resources.

In her call for far-reaching controls of runaway farm spending, Mrs Thatcher insisted there must be no weakening of the stabilizer proposals for farm curbs originally put forward by the European Commission. Stabilizers were a strict British pre-condition for an increase in EEC resources.

Yesterday, Mr Schlüter dispensed with the normal opening formalities and plunged the summit straight into the thorny issue of agriculture.

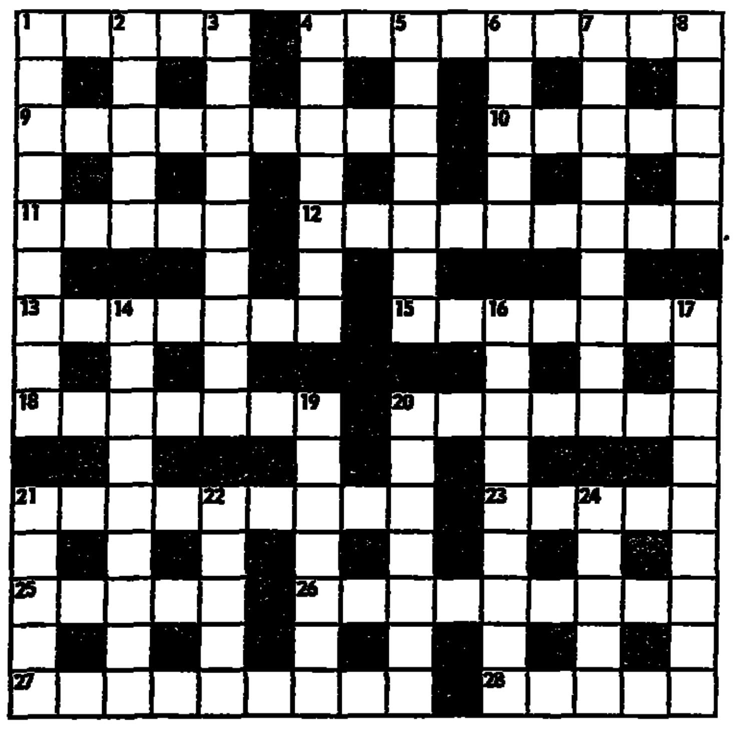
Mrs Thatcher immediately reminded her fellow European leaders that the EEC had agreed four years ago to tackle the food mountains, and had resolved that farm spending should not grow at a faster rate than revenues. This had been breached, she said, because of a lack of detailed control over commodities.

One hope yesterday was that Chancellor Kohl might make enough concessions today to open the way for a deal. Officials pointed out that West Germany was under pressure because it did not want to inherit chaos when it took over the EEC presidency from Denmark in January.

But yesterday Mrs Thatcher still appeared to have firm support in her campaign from the Netherlands alone.

Thatcher backs off, page 6

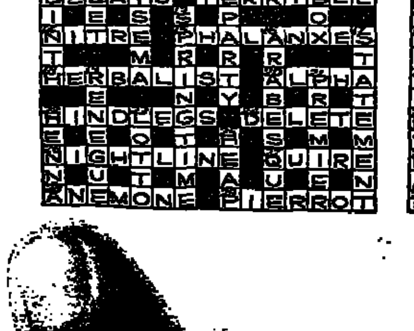
THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE No 17,532



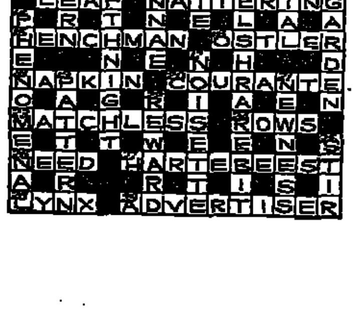
ACROSS
1 Abed abroad in the dark (5).
4 Presumably it made a lot of Avonville's buildings cleaner (4,5).
9 Knocks every dog's home in London (9).
10 Not a clerical body in Italy, perhaps (5).
11 A period return, say, to Wembley (5).
12 Sort of message one responds freely to (5,4).
13 Slipway to dilapidated part of US town (4,3).
15 The sort of man Rackstraw was, to his credit (7).
18 A manor house and land, humble some say (7).
20 Fruit religious individuals take to (7).
21 Scuttle along on the boundary line like a mad thing (5,4).
23 Continue to pose as an historian (5).
25 Soundly bottled spirit (5).
26 Girl gym head's lack of qualification (9).
27 The mainland is temperate (9).
28 Three coppers arrest one boy shooter (5).

DOWN
1 Woods are not just like this (9).
2 Illuminated note in volume (5).
3 Lists of words are thus collecteo by us (9).
4 Webster's poor broadcast (7).
5 Little Arthur rises above himself in Latin journey (7).
6 The beef is excellent (5).
7 Simulated take-off (9).
8 Leading journalist in a state of tension (5).
14 Kind of heater required for baptism (9).
16 Sort of feat performed on horseback (9).
17 Eagle-featured, one-armed Captain snooped (4-5).
19 Removal time guaranteed (7).
20 Kind of concrete that takes woven carpets (7).
21 Code name of spymaster brought up in France (5).
22 Rustic individual's language (5).
24 Secure rope when riding (3,2).

Solution to Puzzle No 17,526



Solution to Puzzle No 17,531



WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

ICHNOGRAM
a. A footprint
b. A rebus
c. A carnivorous arthropod

AMBAGIOUS
a. Two-faced
b. Difficult
c. Circuitous

PIGDAUN
a. A spittoon
b. Pig's feathers, i.e. nonsense
c. A Fijian cooking pot

HEDGING
a. Tactic at lacrosse
b. Frill on a hem
c. Changing a computer format

UBIETY
a. Lack of doubt
b. Whereness
c. A Bushman's kraal

Solutions page 20, column 8

A prize of The Times Concise Atlas of the World *will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.*

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A Hutton, Glenmoor, Woodlands Drive, Hoddesdon, Herts; B Large, Vine Cottage, Fressingfield, Eye, Suffolk; D M Smith, 29a Chapel Road, Epping; R K Burton, 11 Glen Terrace, Hexham; P St Lawrence, Howth Castle, Dublin.

Name..

Address..

....

....

....

....

For details of The Times Collins Dictionaries Crossword Championship, 1988, see page 3

Concise crossword, page 19

WEATHER

Scotland and Northern Ireland will be mostly cloudy with rain in parts. The Highlands will have morning frost and fog, clearing to give bright intervals, with showers in the northern isles later. England and Wales will be mainly cloudy with some occasional rain or drizzle. It will be cold, especially on the east coast. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Cloudy and wet in the south but colder and clearer in Scotland.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; fg, fog; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow; t, thunder.

		C	F			C	F
Ajaccio	c	16	61	Majorca	c	20	68
Akrotiri	f	16	61	Malaga	c	15	59
Alex'dria	f	19	66	Malta	s	20	68
Algiers	f	21	70	Melb'rne	f	18	64
Amst'dm	s	1	34	Mexico C*	s	21	70
Athens	f	10	50	Miami*	s	23	73
Bahrain	s	24	75	Milan	f	6	43
Barcelna	c	16	61	Moscow	c	-1	30
Belgrade	f	5	41	Munich	s	1	34
Berlin	c	-1	30	Nairobi	c	19	66
Bermuda*	f	21	70	Naples	f	15	59
Biarritz	f	18	64	N Delhi	s	20	68
Borde'x	f	15	59	N York*	s	6	43
Brussels	s	4	39	Nice	r	10	50
Budapst	c	1	34	Oslo	c	-5	23
B Aires*	s	26	79	Paris	f	5	41
Cairo	f	20	68	Peking	s	2	36
Cape Tn	s	24	75	Perth	f	24	75
C'blanca	r	16	61	Prague	c	1	34
Ch'church	f	22	72	Reykjvik	c	4	39
Cologne	f	2	36	Rhodes	s	13	55
C'phagn	c	2	36	Rio de J	s	24	93
Corfu	s	16	61	Riyadh	s	22	72
Dublin	c	7	45	Rome	f	12	54
Dubrovnik	s	12	54	Salzburg	fg	-2	28
Faro	s	16	61	Seoul	s	1	34
Florence	c	11	52	Sing'por	r	28	82
Frankfurt	c	2	36	St'kholm	c	2	36
Funchal	f	18	64	Strasb'rg	c	1	34
Geneva	c	3	37	Sydney	s	20	68
Gibraltar	r	16	61	Tangier	r	15	59
Helsinki	c	2	36	Tel aviv	c	19	66
Hong K	s	18	64	Tenerife	f	22	72
Innsbrck	s	4	39	Tokyo	f	10	50
Istanbul	f	6	43	Tunis	f	22	72
Jeddah	f	30	86	Valencia	c	15	59
Karachi	s	22	72	Vanc'ver*	c	9	48
L Palmas	f	22	72	Venice	f	5	41
Le Tquet	f	5	41	Vienna	c	3	37
Lisbon	r	14	57	Warsaw	c	1	34
Locarno	c	6	43	Wel'nton	c	15	59
Luxembg	c	0	32	Zurich	s	1	34
Madrid	r	11	52				

* denotes Thursday's figures are latest available

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Scarboro	-	-	6	43	dull
Bridlington	-	-	6	43	dull
Cromer	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Lowestoft	-	-	5	41	dull
Clacton	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Folkestone	0.4	-	4	39	cloudy
Hastings	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Eastbourne	-	-	5	41	dull
Brighton	-	-	2	36	dull
Worthing	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Littlehmptn	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Bognor R	-	-	3	37	dull
Sandown	-	-	5	41	dull
Shanklin	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Bournemth	-	-	3	37	dull
Poole	-	-	4	39	cloudy
Weymouth	-	-	3	37	dull
Exmouth	-	-	3	37	sleet
Torquay	-	-	5	41	dull
Falmouth	-	.13	6	43	rain
Penzance	-	.06	6	43	rain
Scilly Isles	-	.14	7	45	rain
Newquay	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Ilfracombe	*	-	5	41	bright
Minehead	-	-	4	39	dull
Douglas	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Carlisle	1.0	-	6	43	cloudy
N'ctl-n-Tyne	-	-	7	45	cloudy
Nottingham	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Anglesey	6.3	-	5	41	sunny
Cardiff (Ctrl)	-	-	3	37	cloudy
Colwyn Bay	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Tenby	-	-	5	41	cloudy
Aberdeen	-	.01	3	37	shower
Aviemore	4.5	-	-11	28	sunny
Edinburgh	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	0.8	-	4	39	bright
Glasgow	0.8	-	7	45	cloudy
Kinloss	-	-	0	32	cloudy
Lerwick	-	-	6	43	cloudy
Prestwick	2.6	-	6	43	bright
Stornoway	2.9	-	5	41	bright
Tiree	0.6	-	6	43	cloudy
Wick	1.7	-	5	41	bright
Belfast	0.2	-	6	43	shower

* Denotes figures not available

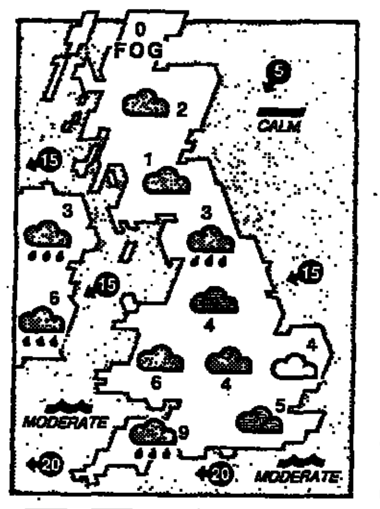
HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TOMORROW	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	1.30	6.9	1.44	6.8	London Bridge	2.08	6.8	2.22	6.9
Aberdeen	12.46	4.1	1.10	4.1	Aberdeen	1.28	4.0	1.44	4.2
Avonmouth	6.52	12.7	7.14	12.7	Avonmouth	7.31	12.8	7.54	12.6
Belfast	10.41	3.5	11.01	3.3	Belfast	11.19	3.5	11.40	3.2
Cardiff	6.37	11.8	6.59	11.7	Cardiff	7.16	11.8	7.39	11.6
Devonport	5.24	5.4	5.42	5.3	Devonport	6.02	5.4	6.21	5.2
Dover	10.41	6.5	11.11	6.5	Dover	11.22	6.6	11.49	6.5
Falmouth	4.54	5.2	5.12	5.1	Falmouth	5.32	5.2	5.51	5.0
Glasgow	12.19	4.7	12.22	4.7	Glasgow	1.01	4.7	12.59	4.8
Harwich	11.33	3.8	11.58	3.8	Harwich	—	—	12.15	3.8
Holyhead	9.59	5.4	10.19	5.3	Holyhead	10.37	5.4	10.59	5.2
Hull	5.51	7.1	6.18	7.0	Hull	6.35	7.0	6.55	7.0
Ilfracombe	5.32	8.7	5.54	8.7	Ilfracombe	6.01	8.8	6.32	8.6
Leith	2.02	5.4	2.29	5.4	Leith	2.45	5.4	3.08	5.3
Liverpool	10.55	9.0	11.15	9.0	Liverpool	11.33	9.0	11.53	8.8
Lowestoft	9.03	2.4	9.29	2.4	Lowestoft	9.48	2.4	10.03	2.5
Margate	11.39	4.6	—	—	Margate	12.05	4.6	12.19	4.7
Milford Haven	5.54	6.7	6.15	6.6	Milford Haven	6.34	6.7	6.55	6.6
Newquay	4.45	6.7	5.05	6.6	Newquay	5.24	6.7	5.45	6.6
Oban	5.19	3.8	5.44	3.8	Oban	5.52	3.8	6.19	3.8
Penzance	4.21	5.5	4.38	5.4	Penzance	4.57	5.5	5.17	5.3
Portland	6.37	2.2	7.08	2.0	Portland	7.14	2.2	7.45	2.0
Portsmouth	11.04	4.6	11.32	4.5	Portsmouth	11.43	4.6	—	—
Shoreham	10.45	6.0	11.12	5.9	Shoreham	11.22	6.0	11.30	5.9
Southampton	10.34	4.4	11.00	4.4	Southampton	11.10	4.4	11.38	4.3
Swansea	5.58	9.3	6.21	9.2	Swansea	6.35	9.2	6.59	9.0
Tees	3.12	5.3	3.34	5.3	Tees	3.53	5.3	4.09	5.3
W'ton-on-Nze	11.27	4.1	11.54	4.0	W'ton-on-Nze	—	—	12.10	4.1

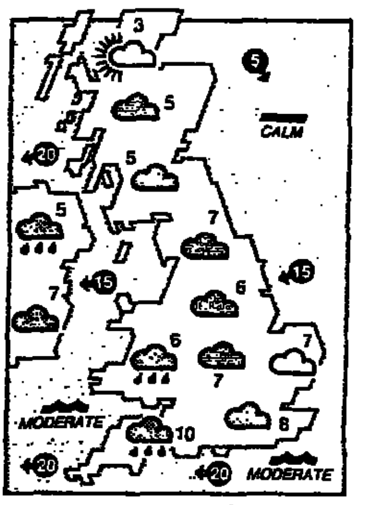
Tide measured in metres: 1m=3.2808ft.
Times are GMT

TODAY			TOMORROW		
	Sun rises: 7.49 am	Sun sets: 3.53 pm		Sun rises: 7.50 am	Sun sets: 3.53 pm
	Moon sets: 8.28 am	Moon rises: 3.21 pm		Moon sets: 9.34 am	Moon rises: 4.7 pm
Full moon 8.01 am			Last quarter December 13th		

AM



PM



LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 7C (45F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3C (37F) Humidity: 6 pm, 84 per cent. *Rain:* 24hr to 6 pm, nil. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, nil. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1014.4 millibars, falling.
1,000 millibars=29.53in.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 6C (43F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 3C (38F) Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, nil. *Sun:* 24 hr to 6 pm, nil.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

TODAY
London 4.23 pm to 7.20 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.29 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 7.56 am
Manchester 4.22 pm to 7.38 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.35 am

TOMORROW
London 4.23 pm to 7.21 am
Bristol 4.33 pm to 7.31 am
Edinburgh 4.11 pm to 7.58 am
Manchester 4.21 pm to 7.40 am
Penzance 4.51 pm to 7.36 am

YESTERDAY

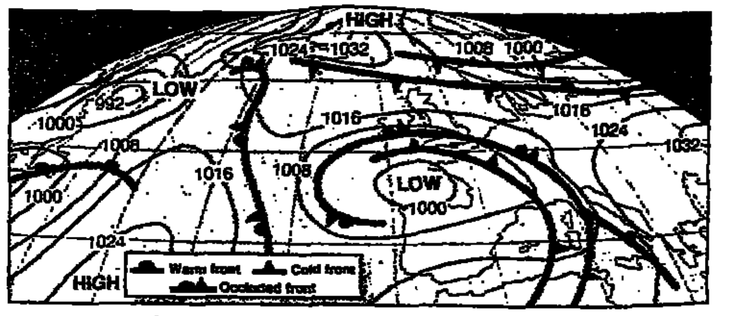
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

		C	F			C	F
Belfast	f	6	43	Guernsey	f	10	50
B'rngham	c	4	39	Inverness	fg	0	32
Blackpool	c	6	43	Jersey	f	8	46
Bristol	r	5	41	London	s	6	43
Cardiff	r	4	39	M'nchster	c	5	41
Edinburgh	c	6	43	Newcastle	c	6	43
Glasgow	f	4	39	R'nldsway	c	7	45

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Edinburgh, 8C (46F); lowest day max: Inverness, -3 (27F); highest rainfall: Culdrose, Cornwall, 0.24 in; highest sunshine: Valley, Anglesey, 6.3 hr.

NOON TODAY



Information supplied by London Weather Centre

THE POUND

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.67	2.53	Italy Lira	2295	2175
Austria Sch	21.85	20.75	Japan Yen	249	237
Belgium Fr	65.20	62.00	Netherlands Gld	3.49	3.32
Canada $	2.455	2.335	Norway Kr	12.14	11.49
Denmark Kr	12.02	11.42	Portugal Esc	254.50	239.50
Finland Mkk	7.70	7.30	South Africa Rd	4.65	3.95
France Fr	10.54	10.04	Spain Pta	209.75	198.75
Germany Dm	3.11	2.95	Sweden Kr	11.26	10.71
Greece Dr	270	250	Switzerland Fr	2.535	2.415
Hong Kong $	14.45	13.75	USA $	1.88	1.79
Ireland Pt	1.174	1.114	Yugoslavia Dnr	3000	2300

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

Retail Price Index: 102.9 (October) London: The *FT* index closed down 0.9 at 1262.7

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هكذا في الأصل

PART 2

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 5 1987

Executive Editor
Kenneth Fleet

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share	1262.7 (–0.9)
FT-SE 100	1582.8 (–5.6)
Bargains	26389 (23323)
USM (Datastream)	126.23 (–1.42)

THE POUND

US dollar	1.7980 (–0.0065)
W German mark	2.9973 (–0.0009)
Trade-weighted	75.8 (–0.1)

SA mining group in £1.5m loss

Rand London Corporation, the South African mining associate of Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings, has fallen further into the red with the announcement yesterday of half-year losses of R5.4 million (£1.52 million), compared with attributable profits of R1 million in the corresponding half last year.

Turnover for the six months to September 30, 1987, was substantially lower, following the disposal of two of the company's minerals subsidiaries. The R16.2 million turnover compares with R37.1 million in the corresponding half in 1986. Rand's shares fell back 2p on the announcement, to 9p. The company is not paying an interim dividend.

Tiphook soars

Tiphook, the transport asset rental group, is raising its interim dividend from 1.43p to 1.65p a share after reporting pretax profits of £2.86 million for the six months ended October 31, compared with £1.51 million previously. Turnover was £28.8 million, against £15.8 million.

Tempus, page 25

Ladbroke list

Ladbroke, the hotels and betting group, has arranged for its shares to be listed on the Brussels and Antwerp stock exchanges. Trading will be through International Depositary Receipts issued by a subsidiary of Banque Bruxelles Lambert.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	
Dow Jones	1760.44 (–16.09)*
Tokyo	
Nikkei Average	22602.75 (–205.41)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	1994.22 (–63.21)
Amsterdam: Gen	198.3 (–4.7)
Sydney: AO	1245.8 (–40.4)
Frankfurt:	
Commerzbank	1296.7 (–61.5)
Brussels:	
General	3586.1 (–76.9)
Paris: CAC	278.3 (–7.7)
Zurich: SKA Gen	414.2 (–11.2)
London:	
FT.–A All-Share	795.96 (–4.1)
FT.– "500"	877.15 (–3.32)
FT. Gold Mines	329.4 (–7.6)
FT. Fixed interest	96.80 (–0.25)
FT. Govt Secs	89.58 (–0.39)
Recent Issues	**Page 24**
Closing prices	**Page 27**

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Marler Estates	425p (+40p)
Shell	955p (+12p)
Tiphook	275p (+20p)
Sun Alliance	760p (+22p)
Hunting Assoc.	395p (+10p)
Vibroplant	555p (+10p)
Close Bros.	170p (+10p)
Hoskyns Group	225p (+10p)
Shandwick	330p (+10p)
Bradford Props.	525p (+20p)
FALLS:	
VSEL	425p (–25p)
Securicor	265p (–25p)
Henderson Admin.	525p (–50p)
Christies Intnl.	310p (–18p)
J Mowlem	355p (–10p)
Wm Collins	525p (–25p)
Norcros	324p (–24p)
Ward White	277p (–16p)
Moss Bros	735p (–20p)
Electronic Mach.	92p (–10p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 8½%
3-month Interbank 8⅝-8½%
3-month eligible bills: 8$^{7}/_{32}$-8⅛%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8¾%
Federal Funds 6$^{13}/_{16}$%*
3-month Treasury Bills 5.39-5.38%*
30-year bonds 97$^{31}/_{32}$-100*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: $1.7980	£: $1.7980*
£: DM2.9973	$: DM1.6660*
£: SwFr2.4525	$: SwFr1.3635*
£: FFr10.1677	$: FFr5.6555*
£: Yen238.74	$: Yen132.70*
£: Index:75.8	$: Index:95.5
ECU £0.688234	SDR £0.753330

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $485.75 pm-$486.25
close $480.00-481.00 (£267.00-267.75)
New York:
Comex $481.00-481.50*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Jan) pm $18.15bbl ($18.10)
* Denotes latest trading price

Bus Roundup	24	Money Mrkts	26
Stock Market	24	Foreign Exch	26
World Markts	24	Unit Trusts	26
Traded Opts	24	Commodities	26
Comment	25	USM Prices	26
Tempus	25	Share Prices	27

Dollar rises in nervous rally

Gilts decline despite cuts in interest rates

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The financial markets remained highly nervous yesterday, failing to respond to Thursday's round of European interest rate cuts. Government stocks fell by 1½ points, in spite of the lower rates.

The dollar staged a recovery, helped by significant intervention by both the Bank of England and the West German Bundesbank. There were reports that the Federal Reserve Bank of New York could have bought dollars in small quantities.

The pound dropped back below $1.80, closing a net 65 points down on the day at $1.7980. The Bank succeeded in holding sterling below DM3, and it closed unchanged at DM2.9988.

Dealers said the Bank of England could have spent $1 billion (£560 million) over the past two days, in holding sterling down and supporting the dollar.

The dollar rose by half a pfennig to DM1.6670, but slipped back slightly to Y132.80 from Y133.05.

Later in New York, the pound fell to $1.7845 and the dollar rose to DM1.6735 on short covering ahead of the weekend.

The dollar was helped by one of two strong rumours sweeping the financial markets, which was that there would be a meeting of the Group of Seven finance ministers and central bankers this weekend. A spokesman for the Treasury categorically denied that such a meeting was planned.

The other rumour was that the Government, following recent intervention experience, would use the opportunity of this weekend's European Economic Community summit to take sterling into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System.

However, the Prime Minister appeared to rule out full EMS membership last month, and with the Copenhagen summit set to involve wrangles over the EEC budget, the suggestion that Mrs Thatcher would use the opportunity to demonstrate her commitment to Europe by taking sterling into the EMS looked to be an improbable one.

The dollar's revival helped lift share prices. The FT-SE 100 index closed just 5.6 points down at 1,582.8, having been 26.3 points lower at one stage. On Wall Street last night, the Dow Jones industrial average had lost 14.26 points, at 1,762.27.

The gilt market failed to revive in spite of talk in the money markets of another early reduction in base rates, after Thursday's cut from 9 to 8.5 per cent.

The market was down across all maturities, although the sharper fall in long-dated gilts produced a further steepening of the upward-sloping yield curve. Dealers believe that while there may be further base rate cuts in the short term, such reductions are unsustainable.

"Traders decided that if the market was not going to go up on good news, they might as well drive it down," said Mr Bill Allen, a director of Greenwell Montagu Gilt-Edged.

Comment......................25

Drop in US jobless to 5.9% may ease impact of crash

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The US unemployment rate fell to 5.9 per cent in November from 6 per cent in October, after another wave of hiring by American employers, the Labour Department announced yesterday.

The November unemployment rate was a full percentage point lower than the 6.9 per cent rate in November 1986. It matched the rate of September 1987, the lowest since November 1979.

The number of non-farm payroll jobs increased by 274,000 in November after rising by 536,000 in October, revised from the figure of 549,000 estimated last month.

Economists observed that yesterday's strong report was further evidence that the economy had built up considerable momentum that should cushion the grave impact of the stock market crash.

They had expected the unemployment rate to be unchanged in November and had predicted the creation of only 150,000 jobs.

The Labour Department said 99,000 jobs were added in goods-producing industries — a sign of growing vigour among the country's exporters — and 175,000 in service industries.

Manufacturing employment rose by 69,000 in November to 19.31 million.

The gains in service jobs included 90,000 more jobs in health services, transport and public utilities

Analysts and management consultants said they had found nothing to indicate that the plunging stock prices on October 19, and a wide fluctuation since then, had curtailed the US employment growth of the past five years.

Japan's GNP grows by 2%

Japan's real gross national product grew by 2 per cent in the July-September quarter over the preceding three-month period, helped by brisk spending on housing and large capital inflows from abroad. Japan's Economic Planning Agency said the inflation-adjusted value of goods and services was 8.4 per cent up, at an annualized rate.

No recession, Pöhl predicts

Frankfurt (Reuter) — Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, the president of West Germany's Bundesbank, said yesterday that the recent developments in the finance and currency markets should not lead to a recession.

"At this stage, no one can know for sure what the impact will be. But I expect that we will be able to avoid a recession," he said in remarks prepared for delivery to a prize-giving ceremony here.

Economists said the release of American job figures for November would provide the first important sign about how the stock market crash had affected the US economy.

Pöhl: confident of growth

As for West Germany itself, Herr Pöhl said domestic growth was "relatively strong" before the stock market crash and the ensuing rise in the mark, and a weakening in the economy cannot be seen in available statistics.

Year-on-year real growth was 1.4 per cent in the third quarter and the West German government expects 1.5 to 2 per cent for the whole year.

Herr Pöhl said growth should be sustained by the momentum created by this earlier expansion and the minimal impact of the financial market developments on private consumption

City high-flyers feel the pinch after the crash

Paying the price for Big Bang

By Joe Joseph

This time last year, the stock market's Big Bang was still in short trousers and the City's new rich were counting their "Golden Hellos" and wondering what Christmas might be like in Bali.

Few believed the pundits who argued that high salaries in the City and low job security were natural bedfellows, least of all the pampered beneficiaries.

With profits and commissions now shrivelling as a result of the market's crash, and amid fragile confidence in the world economy, many employed in high finance are at a low ebb. They no longer fear what seems certain to be a slender annual bonus or even a pay cut. They are anxious to avoid losing their jobs.

It is not uncommon nowadays to see daily trading totals on the Stock Exchange's Seaq computerized dealing system of 16,000 bargains — the lowest levels since Big Bang and less than a third of business on an average day.

Such volumes are just not big enough to provide a comfortable living for all the players in the City, who are beginning to appreciate the value as well as the price of their highly paid jobs.

Barclays de Zoete Wedd, the broker, which lost about £60 million in the crash, admits that if turnover settles at current levels it will have to start cutting staff and operations. "Some areas of the securities markets are drying up and no new ones are opening," said a spokesman, pointing out that BZW needs to make profits of at least £750,000 a day to meet its overheads. "We may have to pull out of some specialized areas."

Mr John Tyce, banking analyst at Alexanders Laing & Cruickshank, the broker, feels research departments will be first to feel the pinch. "Firms were hiring analysts hand over fist a year ago and it is an obvious area for cutting out some slack."

Up to half a million people work in the City. A 2 per cent trimming, a figure City observers regard as not outlandish, would mean 10,000 jobs disappearing within the next few months. In practice, the biggest firms are likely to bleed most freely: some already have.

The big American investment houses have tended to set the pace. Salomon Brothers recently put 800 of its staff worldwide out to grass: about 150 of the lay-offs were in London. Shearson Lehman, which this week took over the US securities house EF Hutton, dismissed 150, Chemical Bank a further 170. Goldman Sachs is also cutting back.

About 150 jobs went in London when Orion Royal Bank, part of the Royal Bank of Canada, drew the curtains on its Eurobond and gilts division, another 14 disappeared when Dean Witter stopped trading Eurobonds in London, and 28 when Hill Samuel ended its gilts operations.

The cutbacks are not only in the big City brokerage houses.

Henderson Administration and Berkeley Govett, both investment fund managers, have between them sacked about 40 staff in recent weeks.

Equally painful are the slimmer bonuses that will be slipped into the Christmas pay cheque and the salary cuts needed to balance the books.

There are even suggestions that some companies are using the market crash as an excuse to cut salaries they always regarded as inflated. There has always been concern in clearing banks with securities operations that market-makers were overpaid compared to the banks' long-standing employees.

At County NatWest, the merchant bank, which dealt for the adventurous trainee accountant Mr Anil Gupta, aged 23, who lost more than £1 million in the traded options market during the stock market crash — senior directors from the chairman down have decided to take a 20 per cent cut in their basic salaries.

That could mean, according to some City estimates, perhaps £30,000 a year less for Mr Charles Villiers, the County NatWest chairman, Mr Jonathan Cohen, the chief executive, and Mr Gavin Casey, the deputy chief executive.

"They agreed voluntarily and unanimously in the light of changed market conditions and to give some leadership to the group," according to the bank's spokeswoman, Mrs Lesley Tzidon. Minions can probably expect a trickle-down effect shortly. Ten more junior members of staff in the bank's capital markets department have already gone.

At Reuters, the international news agency and financial information service, directors have decided to freeze temporarily their salaries after reading the tickertape, although the company insists that the decision does not reflect any rush by subscribers to hurl their Reuters screens out of the window.

As always, there is a bright side for those willing to search for one.

Dr Paul Neild, head of equities at the stockbroker Phillips & Drew, says: "In some ways we see what is happening as an opportunity because it weakens our competitors. This is going to be a sorting-out process. It will whittle down the stockbrokers into five to seven major league players. I think we will be one of them."

Mary Baker: first woman to join the main board at Barclays

Barclays appoints woman director

Mrs Mary Baker, wife of Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, has become the first woman to be appointed a director on the main board of Barclays Bank. Until now, Barclays' main board has consisted of 33 men.

Mrs Baker has been a director of Barclays Bank UK, the domestic clearing bank operation, since 1983. The appointment as non-executive director to the main group board is the latest in a series of senior directorships held by Mrs Baker.

From 1980 to 1983 she was chairman of the Inner London Tourist Board, and has been a director of Thames Television since 1975. She is also a director of Avon Cosmetics and chairman of the Holiday Care Service, a national charity. She has also been made a Freeman of the City of London.

Despite the insistence by clearing banks that they would like to see more women directors on their boards, Mrs Baker is only the third woman to appear on the board of one of the Big Four banks.

Barker buy

Barker & Dobson, the food retailing and confectionery group, has paid £1.8 million for The Thousands Sweet Company, a confectionery retailer and pick-and-mix concession operator. Net assets will cost an additional £200,000. The price will be met by £500,000 cash and the issue of a variable coupon loan stock of £1.3 million, convertible into ordinary shares. The Thousands Sweet Company has six outlets.

Metals weaker

Precious metals were weaker across the board on London markets yesterday. Gold was $9.75 weaker at $480.50 (£266.20) an ounce, and silver was down 19.25p at 368.5p an ounce. The sterling price of platinum was £10.10 lower, at £274.65 an ounce.

Kuwaiti stake in BP 'up to 12%'

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) is likely to start its ministerial meeting to set the world oil price next week with one of its leading members sitting on the largest single shareholding in BP, Britain's largest company and the third biggest oil company in the world.

The Kuwait Investment Office, the London-based unit which handles investments in the world stock markets on behalf of the Kuwaiti government, is now believed to hold 12 per cent of BP and to be hopeful of increasing that to 15 per cent by early next week.

It has picked up the shares at bargain prices following the government sale of its 31.5 per cent stake in the company, which resulted in almost all 2,194 million shares on offer being left with the underwriters.

In the past two weeks it has paid up to 85p to build a stake in the company while the open market price has been hovering just above the 70p floor price effectively set by the Treasury through its offer that the Bank of England would buy back any shares at 70p.

The offer can end next Friday at the earliest or at the lastest on January 6, but the Treasury must give five "London working" days' notice of when the offer will close which means that notice must be given on the opening of the Stock Exchange on Monday if the offer is to close at the first opportunity. The Chancellor, has however, been advised to leave it open for as long as possible.

It is now understood that the KIO which has kept its strict tradition this week of refusing to comment on any of its activities, is now being advised directly by the Kuwaiti cabinet rather than the Kuwaiti finance ministry, and has built up its BP stake for reasons other than the normal KIO investment policy.

Kuwait has been moving into the downstream section of the European oil market — the retail rather than the oil production side — and has taken about 8 per cent of European petrol outlets under the control of its Q8 brand.

It aims to achieve 14 per cent of the European market and its advisers have an intimate knowledge of the strengths of the BP European marketing chain and its refinery network.

Only a year ago Kuwait bought the BP network in Denmark and is understood to be prepared to move for the BP sales network in the rest of Scandinavia.

Kuwait is following this policy in order to find an outlet for its crude oil which gives it a slice of the profits from both oil production and from refining and marketing at a time when its dollar earnings — all international oil trade is conducted in dollars — are being hit by the fall in the value of the US currenhcy.

Yesterday, 157 million of the new BP shares put on the market by the Government and held since October 30 by the underwriting community changed hands. Of these up to 60 million, and possibly as much as 90 million, are thought to have gone to Kuwait, although the stockbroking community and BP last night refused to make any comment on who the buyer was.

A stake in BP of that size would give Kuwait considerable leverage within the European and world markets— BP is now a major player in the US oil market after its total acquisition of Standard Oil of Ohio in the spring — but it is understood that it will not take its share above the 14.99 per cent level above which is is entitled to call an extraordinary general meeting and seek nominations to the company's board.

It would also have to meet strict Stock Exchange rules if it were to attempt to buy a larger stake than 15 per cent.

However, Kuwait is a leading architect of Opec's oil policy and the cartel is due to meet in Vienna next Wednesday.

Comment......................25

Legrand gets go-ahead for MK bid

By Cliff Feltham

The Takeover Panel yesterday gave the green light to Legrand, the French electrical group, to press ahead with its plan to take over MK Electric, the plugs and sockets group.

This followed inquiries by the Panel into the sudden decision by Siemens, the West German group, to pull out of bid talks with MK, soon after meeting Legrand executives.

However, after hearing from both Legrand and Siemens the Panel appeared satisfied there was no evidence of "collusion."

Siemens has rejected any suggestion that there was a connection between the talks and its decision not to proceed. Apparently the West German group was unwilling to become involved in an auction.

MK and Legrand — which has said it wants to bid — were understood to be continuing their talks yesterday. Legrand has acquired a stake of just above 6 per cent in MK, and is thought to be considering an offer worth about 670p a share.

MK is already defending an unwelcome £206 million bid from RTZ Corporation worth 550p a share

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Poor earnings push Lofs $1.6m into red

London & Overseas Freighters (Lofs), the tanker company, made a pretax loss of $1.6 million (£891,000) in the six months to end-September, against a previous profit of $136,000. The poor level of tanker earnings continued and gross freight earnings fell to $4.8 million from $6.65 million. Operating costs and charges of the company's two tankers did not alter significantly.

Both tankers were dry-docked for repairs, which used up cash resources and meant the company had no cash available to repay its loans guaranteed by Sumitomo Corporation. Sumitomo has agreed to the deferment of payment of $1.43 million out of $1.93 million that was due, leaving $500,000 repayable at the end of this month.

Buyback at Clayform

Clayform Properties has been taking advantage of the stock market fall to buy back its own shares. The company yesterday announced it purchased 837,750 shares at 195p each and a further block of 250,000 at 200p. Recently a number of companies have been buying their own shares while others have made plans to seek approval of their shareholders to do so.

Half-time rise at Rolfe

The crash has not caused any loss of orders at Rolfe & Nolan, the computer group. Rolfe yesterday reported pretax profits of £232,000 for the first six months of the year, up from £141,000. Turnover rose from £1.1 million to £1.4 million. The company says the outlook appears encouraging and it is gaining new customers, including three leading Japanese institutions.

Lexicon losses soar

Lexicon, the American maker of digital audio equipment, made a loss before tax of $971,000 (£539,000) in the year to the end of August, compared with a loss the previous year of $262,000. Sales fell to $6.9 million from $8.4 million and the operating loss rose to $1.5 million from $302,000.

Deliveries of Opus and other new products next spring are expected to have a significant impact on the company's profitability in the second half of the current year. Lexicon's financial position remains strong with cash balances of more than $800,000 and net current assets of $3 million. The operating loss was due to continued competition in low-end products, the slow build-up of sales of top-end products and the high level of research and development expenditure.

Shopfitter's profits up

Campbell & Armstrong, the USM-quoted office and shopitting company, made pretax profits of £719,000 in the six months to September 27, a rise of 10.6 per cent. Turnover rose 34.8 per cent, to £5.6 million. The company said all sections of the business and their manufacturing units were busy and expansion is expected to continue. The interim dividend was 1.5p (1.3p).

Textile firm's £2.3m sell-off

Allied Textiles, the Yorkshire group, is raising £2.3 million by selling off part of the Bulmer & Lumb business which it acquired earlier this year. The disposal includes land, plant and machinery at Bolton, Lancashire, which made up the unprofitable spinning division of the company. At the half-way stage of the year, Allied Textiles reported a 17 per cent improvement in its profits.

BICC's £1m purchase

BICC, the cables, construction and components group, is buying ATS (Telemetry) of Haywards Heath for £1 million. The company is complementary to BICC's existing telemetry and energy management company, Transmitton, and is a further step towards building a significant systems group under the BICC Technologies banner.

ATS designs, manufactures and supplies remote monitoring and control equipment and systems to public utilities, water authorities, oil companies, government organizations and the security and telecommunications industries. Customers include British Telecom, Mercury Communications, the Property Services Agency, the Civil Aviation Authority and British Airports Authority. Turnover is about £3.7 million.

STOCK MARKETS

Late revival cushions an end-of-account decline

By Geoffrey Foster

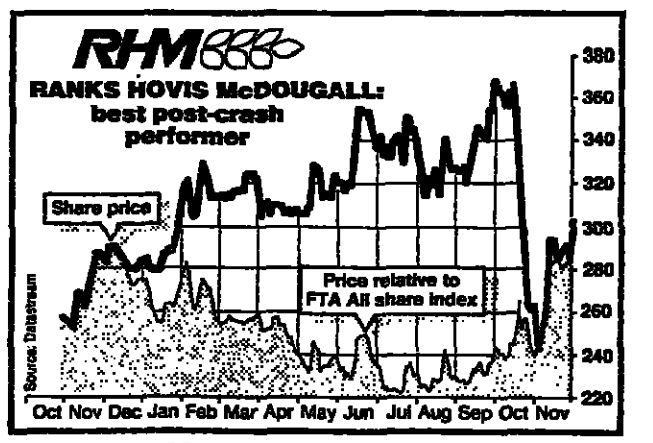
The two-week trading account ended on a mildly encouraging note as share prices rallied smartly in late dealings to close well above their worst levels of the day.

Earlier in the session, dealers had marked prices defensively lower in sympathy with Wall Street's overnight decline and the apparent failure by the US to support the dollar in the wake of Thursday's concerted move by European countries to cut interest rates.

Share prices continued to drift lower in extremely thin trading conditions as dealers took the pessimistic view that the dollar would show no signs of a recovery until the proposed US deficit-cutting measures win Congress approval. Some sizeable selling was reported in places as yesterday was the last day that institutions could sell stock if they wanted to have cash on their balance sheets by the year-end.

Sentiment was also adversely affected by stories, emanating from the bond market, that a firm of gilt-edged market-makers had encountered financial difficulties and was being forced to unload stock in the market.

Certainly, the gilts market reacted nervously, shrugging off the fact that high street banks' base rates now stand at their lowest level for nearly four years, falling by more than a point.



However, some buying for the new trading account, which starts on Monday, and unconfirmed reports that an emergency G7 meeting had been called for this weekend prompted a late revival in equities. The FT-SE 100 index, which had been 26.3 points lower just after 2pm, recovered to show a fall of only 5.6 by the close at 1,582.8. The indicator closed 50.6 points down on the account. The FT 30 share index ended 0.9 lower at 1,262.7.

Early confirmation that the Kuwait Investment Office had increased its stake in BP to 10.44 per cent after purchases in the market on Thursday, preceded a further buying raid by the KIO on BP new shares yesterday.

About 157 million BP new shares changed hands yesterday as the KIO reportedly picked up a further 62 million shares at 71p apiece and another large tranche at about the 72p level.

The shares eventually closed unchanged at 72.5p and last night the KIO was rumoured to have increased its shareholding in BP to more than 11.5 per cent. BP old shares closed 5p up at 242p.

Sporadic end-of-account profit-taking left Ranks Hovis McDougall, the bread and cakes group, 2p lower at 305p, but the shares still stand out as the best performer since the crash.

After falling from a peak of 360p to 240p, the shares have rebounded strongly to the current level amid widespread speculation that its days of independence are numbered after Goodman Fielder, the Australasian food group, recently boosted its stake in the company to nearly 30 per cent.

Attempts by Mr Pat Goodman, the GF chairman, to gain a seat on the board of RHM have been rejected and dealers have been talking about a hostile offer for RHM ever since. Dealers also interpreted as a defensive measure the appointment of Mr John Gunn, chairman of British & Commonwealth Shipping, as a non-executive director.

Meanwhile, Jaguar, the luxury car manufacturer, is the worst post-crash performer. The price held steady at 270p yesterday as 3.4 million shares changed hands.

Jaguar's share price more than halved in the crash to 261p amid fears about the group's exposure to the dollar as it sells about one third of its luxury cars to the US. Worries that any attempts by Jaguar to raise prices to combat the dollar's decline could hit sales dramatically in the price-sensitive US market were also a big depressing influence.

Nevertheless, some dealers have recently suggested that the shares are thoroughly oversold. Very few Americans have apparently cancelled or postponed orders

Mr John Woolman, analyst at County NatWest, the broker, believes now is the time to buy shares of J Sainsbury, Britain's leading grocer, which closed 4p down at 211p yesterday. He says they have underperformed the market by 5 per cent since last month's impressive interim results. Current trading is encouraging with new stores beating budget targets by embarrassing margins.

TOKYO

Nikkei 205 points off in 'dead cross' trading

(Reuter) — Prices closed sharply lower in very thin trade because of Wall Street's decline on Thursday, a weakening dollar and bearish chart factors, brokers said.

The Nikkei index lost 205.41 points, or 0.9 per cent, to 22,602.75, just off its low. On Thursday the index lost 107.33 points. Declines led advances three to one in turnover of 340 million shares, against 400 million on Thursday.

"It is mainly because of the charts, but Wall Street's plunge was a bad incentive," said a broker for Daiwa Securities. A "dead cross" has formed on brokers' charts, analysts said.

A dead cross is when the market's six-day moving average dips below its 25-day moving average. "It is a negative sign. It shows the long-term buying trend has been broken," said one broker.

Securities house, communications, rubber, some financial, bank, pharmaceutical, warehouse and fishery shares lost most. Export-related manufacturing and electronics stocks also fell. Nippon Telegraph and Telephone lost Y30,000 (£125) to 2.44 million. Mining and insurance stocks rose.

SYDNEY

Bears maul shares in wake of US decline

From Richard Battley, Sydney

Australian bears ravaged the share market yesterday in emulation of their American cousins.

They clawed 38 points off the All-Ordinaries index. It closed at 1,247 points.

Brokers said the decline was caused by the sharp 72-point overnight fall on Wall Street.

Mr Nestor Hinzack, an analyst with the broker Ord Minnett, said: "The Australian market is simply a hostage of the overseas market."

Another added: "Sentiment is still tied to Wall Street and until local factors take control we will continue to suffer the vagaries of the Dow Jones."

Industrial stocks were battered and their index fell 55 points to close at 1,903 points.

The Bell Group shed 2 cents to close at Aus$1.80

Elders IXL, the brewing conglomerate, also declined 3 cents to Aus$3.32 and BHP followed suit, with a fall of 2 cents to Aus$6.58.

Falls outnumbered rises by four to one. Turnover totalled a moderate 113 million shares, worth Aus$155 million.

Officials cancelled the afternoon trading session in Perth because of a power failure.

FRANKFURT

Dollar selling hits cars

(Reuter) — Shares closed sharply lower across the board in thin trading, with renewed dollar selling causing heavy losses in the export-orientated car sector, dealers said.

Daimler fell 29.50 points to end at 599, and BMW closed 15.50 lower, at 416. VW slumped 16.50 to 222.50. The dollar's fall was seen as hurting West German car sales in the US market, dealers said.

They also pointed to a Westdeutsche Landesbank (WestLB) report which said that the car industry is likely to lose business at home and abroad in 1988, and will have to cut production.

The Commerzbank index of 60 leading shares, calculated at mid-session, fell 61.5 to 1,296.7.

News that KHD, the engineering and agro-machinery group, planned to shed 6,000 jobs world-wide to cut costs was another blow to the market, dealers said.

KHD fell 4 points, to close at 81 and Mannesmann lost 5.30 to 103.20. MAN eased a small 0.10 to 122.50.

ALPHA STOCKS

	Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000		Vol '000
Abbey	1,037	Coats	1,343	Land Sec	2,505	Rowntree	125
Alld-Lyons	1,857	CU	1,334	Laporte	22	Royal Bank	1,630
Amstrad	3,307	Cons Gold	820	L&G	564	Royal Ins	974
ASDA	1,132	Cookson	272	Lloyds	1,140	Saatchi	1,975
AB Foods	564	Courtaulds	534	Lonrho	683	Sainsbury	1,112
Argyll	2,233	Dalgety	286	Lucas	242	Scot & N	177
BAA	1,120	Dee	6,694	Magnet	735	Sears	4,108
BET	574	Dixons	976	M&S	5,835	Sedgwick	180
BTR	1,671	ECC	270	Maxwell Cm	1,798	Shell	3,390
BAT	6,809	Enterprise	1,168	MEPC	737	Smith & N	4,931
Barclays	1,747	Ferranti	2,892	Metal Box	337	STC	1,606
Bass	1,358	Fisons	746	Midland	1,049	Stan Chart	576
Beecham	2,903	Gen Acc	84	NatWest	631	Storehse	2,156
Beazer	575	GEC	4,323	Next	369	Sun Allnce	83
BICC	1,312	Glaxo	2,647	Nth Food	408	T & N	359
Blue Arrow	3,632	Globe	68	P&O	470	Tarmac	1,800
Blue Circle	562	Granada	306	Pearl	56	Tate & Lyle	585
BOC	1,980	Grand Met	1,840	Pearson	533	TSB	2,206
Boots	1,286	GUS 'A'	161	Pilkington	1,616	Tesco	3,747
BPB	315	GRE	241	Plessey	9,982	Thorn EMI	1,388
Br Aero	4,099	GKN	1,156	Prudential	503	Trafalgar	1,043
Br Airways	23,173	Guinness	3,287	Racal	10,722	THF	2,180
Br Comm	835	Hamm 'A'	129	Rk Hovis	932	Ultramar	594
Br Gas	10,160	Hanson	12,073	Rank	356	Unigate	409
Br Petrol	13,521	Hawker	313	R&C	120	Unilever	1,259
Br Telecm	13,094	Hawley	1,519	Redland	351	United Bis	536
Britoil	4,884	Hillsdown	591	Reed	1,604	Utd News	709
Bunzl	250	IMI	364	Reuters	1,413	Wellcome	4,308
Burmah	143	ICI	1,729	RMC Gp	97	Whitbrd	210
Burton	1,916	Jaguar	3,494	RTZ	571	Willis Fab	318
C&W	3,646	Lasmo	887	R-Royce	12,895	Woolworth	2,637
Cadbury	710	Ladbroke	2,024	Rothmn 'B'	746	Equities page 27	

RECENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Ald Restaurants	58
Bnt Pet P/P	72½
Butte Mining (100p)	140
Chartsearch	28
Co of Designers (100p)	105 −1
Dolphin Packg (106p)	95 −8
Fairway Ldn	75
Gaelic Res	4½
Hard Rock Cafe	125 −5
Do 'A'	85 −13
ISA Intl (80p)	88
Lloyd Thomp (170p)	135
Marcol Group	63
Mayne Nickless	175 +5
Nester-BNA (75p)	76
Power Corp	65 −5
Record (88p)	63
Rolls-Royce (170p)	101 +2
Rural Plan	85
Sec Archives	150 +2
Shaftsbury (180p)	100 −10
Stanhope Props (250p)	127 −1
Sykes-Pickavant	116 −2
Tomorrows Leisure	30
Trevian Hldgs	86
Tubular Exhib	20 +1
URS Intl	53 −2
USDC Inv	109 −2
Wilshaw Secs	24
Zetters Leis	128 −1

RIGHTS ISSUES

Apld Holographc N/P	20 −1
City & For N/P	2½ +½
RKF Gp N/P	¾

(Issue price in brackets).

THIRD MARKET

1987 High	1987 Low	Company	Price Bid	Price Offr	Chg
485	165	Abelscox	150	180	nc
56	18	Aber Am Pet	19	22	nc
150	110	Allied Ins	119	129	−5
315	38	Amercoeur	33	38	nc
111	55	Andaman Res	62	67	nc
285	116	Broadcast	145	165	nc
192	61	Camotech	70	80	nc
103	45	Catalyst	54	58	−2
203	130	Chelsea Art	130	150	nc
110	40	Chemex Intl	35	45	−3
153	80	Comac	75	85	−5
151	50	Corton Bch	55	60	nc
228	135	Crown Eye	150	160	−5
17	14	Eglinton	14	16	+1
10	8	Do Wrnts	7	9	nc
188	65	Far E Res	108	118	+5
110	57	Gardner (J)	52	62	nc
53	19	Honorbilt	19	22	+1
73	41	Kemp (PE)	38	43	nc
181	56	Leading Lsr	63	68	−4
95	60	Lynx Tech	60	70	nc
180	88	Medirace	85	95	−2
80	15	Pub Hldgs	28	33	nc
128	82	Seacon	77	87	nc
87	35	Theme Hldgs	38	48	−2
715	132	UPL	128	138	+1
140	103	Unit Group	105	115	nc

WALL STREET

Dow fall checked by dollar support

New York (Reuter) — Wall Street stocks fell over a broad range in early trading yesterday but the decline in blue chips was smaller than some analysts had forecast before the opening.

They said the fall was cushioned by underlying dollar support from a better-than-expected November employment report.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 10.45 to 1766.08 at one stage with the transport indicator down 14.14 to 659.43 and the utilities average 1.19 lower at 172.53.

The broader New York Stock Exchange composite index lost 1.33 to 125.68 and Standard & Poor's 500 share index was down 2.18 to 223.03.

Declining issues led advancing shares by almost 10-to-1. Trading was heavy.

Among the early active issues, ATT was unchanged at 26, General Electric slipped ½ to 39⅜, American Express fell ¼ to 21 and IBM was down 1 at 105½. Brokers said the small decline in IBM, the bellwether, illustrated selling restraint.

● Moody's Investors Service said yesterday it may downgrade the ratings of General Motors Acceptance Corporation and other subsidiaries of General Motors Corporation.

Moody's said the action would affect about $54 billion (£29.8 billion) of debt. The agency's review will focus on the ability of the parent, General Motors, to strengthen its long-term business position.

	Dec 3	Dec 2		Dec 3	Dec 2		Dec 3	Dec 2
AMR Cp	28⅝	30⅜	Firestone	31½	31½	Pepsico	30⅞	32⅞
ASA	51⅛	53	Fst Chicago	19⅝	19¼	Pfizer	45¼	47
Aetna Life	44⅞	45	Fst Int Bncp	39⅝	40⅝	Phelps Dod	40⅞	42½
Allied Signal	27¼	28¼	Fst Penn C	6	6⅜	Philip Mor	85⅝	87¾
Allis Chlm	1⅜	1⅜	FT Wachva	32⅞	32⅝	Philip Ptrl	10⅝	10⅝
Alcoa	41	42⅜	Ford Motor	72⅜	74⅜	Polaroid	20	20⅝
Amax Inc	17⅝	18¼	GAF Cp	37⅝	40⅜	Primerica	23½	25⅝
AMR Hess	23⅝	23⅞	GTE Cp	35½	36⅝	Proct Gble	77½	81⅝
Am Brands	36⅝	38⅞	Gen Cp	68	68¼	Pub S E G	22¾	22⅝
Am Cynmd	38	36⅝	Gn Dynam	43⅛	43⅝	Raytheon	60½	62⅝
Am Ele Pwr	25⅛	25⅝	Gen Electric	40	41⅛	Rynlds Metl	41	42
Amexs	21⅞	22⅝	Gen Inst	24⅝	26⅝	Rockwell Int	16⅝	16⅝
Am Home	66	68¼	Gen Mills	42	43⅝	Royal Dutch	101½	103⅝
Am Int Grp	55½	57⅝	Gen Motors	58	57⅞	SFE Sopac	44⅛	47⅝
Am Stand	33⅝	32⅝	Gen Pub Ut	25⅝	25⅝	Sara Lee	31	33⅛
Am Telph	26⅝	27⅝	Genesco	3⅜	3⅝	Schlumb	29⅝	31⅛
Amoco Cp	63	65⅝	Georgia Pac	30⅞	31⅜	Scott Pap	60⅝	60⅞
Armco Steel	9⅜	9⅜	Gillette	27⅞	28⅝	Seagram	50⅝	52⅝
Asarco Inc	23⅝	25¼	Goodrich	29⅝	31⅛	Sears Roeb	30¼	31⅛
Ashland Oil	53⅝	53⅝	Goodyear	48½	50⅝	Shell Trans	67	67⅝
Atl Richfld	67⅝	68⅞	Gould Inc	10	11	Singer	52	53
Avon Prod	22¾	23⅝	Grace Co	40⅞	41⅛	Smith Beck	45	44⅝
Bk Boston	20⅝	21⅞	Grt Atl Pac	32	33⅜	Sony Cp	36	36¼
Bank NY	25⅛	25⅛	Greyhnd	24¼	24½	Stn Cal Edi	30⅝	31⅛
Bankamer	7⅝	7⅜	Grumman	20	21¼	SW Bell	33⅜	34⅝
Bkrs Tst NY	27⅝	28	Gulf & West	67⅝	67¾	Squibb	58⅝	60⅝
Baxter	21⅝	22⅝	Heinz	35½	36⅝	Sterl Drug	46	47½
Beth Steel	13⅜	13⅜	Hercules	42½	44	Stevens JP	25⅝	25⅝
Boeing	35⅛	35⅝	Hewlett Pk	45½	47⅝	Sun Comp	47	48⅝
Boise Casc	59	60⅝	Honeywell	54⅝	55⅛	TRW Inc	40	42
Borden	43⅝	44½	IC Ind	28⅝	30⅛	Teledyne	277	283½
Bristl Meyr	38⅝	40	ITT Cp	42½	44¼	Tenneco	40⅝	41⅛
BP	51	51⅝	INCO	16⅝	17⅝	Texaco	31⅜	33
Burl Ind	n.a	11⅞	Ing Rand Wl	29⅝	30⅝	Tex Eastn	23	23½
Brunswick	11⅛	n.a	Inland Steel	23⅝	24⅝	Texas Inst	40⅝	41⅞
Burl Nth	55¼	59	IBM	106⅝	110½	Tex Util	27⅛	27⅛
CBS	144⅝	50½	Int Paper	36⅝	36⅝	Textron	20¼	20⅝
Cms Engy	12⅝	13	Irving Bk	48	48⅝	Travelers	32⅝	33⅝
CPC Int	35⅝	37⅝	Jhsn & Jhsn	71⅝	75⅝	USG	25⅝	26⅝
CSX Cp	23⅝	25½	K Mart	25⅝	27⅝	USX Cp	27⅝	28⅝
Cmpbell Sp	50⅝	52⅝	Kaisertech	8⅝	9⅝	Unilever Plc	32	32⅞
Can Pacific	14⅛	14⅛	Kerr McGee	31	32⅝	Un Carbide	17⅞	18⅝
Caterpillar	54⅝	56⅝	Kmbrly Clrk	50⅝	51⅛	Un Pac Cp	49⅝	49⅝
Centrl SW	28¼	28⅝	Kraft	47⅝	46⅝	Unisys Cp	27⅝	29⅝
Champion	28⅝	29⅝	Kroger	24	23⅝	Utd Brands	40⅝	40⅝
Chase Man	23	24½	LTV Cp	2⅝	2⅝	Utd Tech	31⅛	31⅛
Chem NY	24⅝	26⅛	Litton	67⅝	69⅝	Unocal	25	25⅛
Chevron	36⅝	37	Lockheed	33⅝	34⅝	Walter Jim	59	59⅝
Chrysler	20⅝	20⅝	Lucky Str	23⅝	23⅝	Warn Lamb	62⅛	65
Cincorp	17	18	Man H'nver	26¼	26⅜	Wells Far	39⅝	40⅝
Clark Eq	23	24½	Manville	2⅜	2⅝	Westg El	42½	44¼
Coca Cola	36	37⅞	Mapco	42½	43⅛	Weyerhsr	34	36⅝
Colgate	35⅝	37⅝	Marine Mid	82⅝	82⅝	Whirlpool	22⅝	22⅞
Columb Gas	37⅝	39	Mt Marriets	38⅝	39⅛	Woolworth	29⅝	31⅛
Cmb'tn Eng	24⅜	25⅝	Masco	19⅝	20⅝	Xerox Cp	50⅝	52
Cmwlth Edi	27⅝	28⅝	Mcdonalds	40⅝	43⅝	Zenith	13⅝	13⅛
Cons Edis	42	42⅝	McDonnell	56⅝	58			
Consol Ng	37	37	Mead Cp	27⅝	28⅝			
Cont Data	21	22	Merck	160	170¼			
Corning Gl	46½	46⅝	Mnsta Mng	58⅝	58⅝			
Crane	18⅝	19⅝	Mobil	34⅝	36⅝			
Curtiss Wrt	44⅝	44½	Monsanto	67⅝	69⅝			
Data Genl	19⅝	20⅝	Morgan Jp	29⅝	31¼			
Deere Co	30⅝	32½	Motorola	40⅝	42⅝			
Delta Airl	32⅝	34	NCR	62	63⅝			
Detroit Edi	13½	14	NL Indstrs	4⅝	5			
Digital Eq	116½	20⅝	Nat Distill	56⅝	59			
Disney	50½	52⅝	Nat Md Ent	16⅝	17⅝			
Dow Chem	73⅝	76⅝	Nat Semi	11	11⅝			
Dresser Ind	21⅛	21⅝	Norfolk Sthr	22⅝	23⅝			
Dupont	76⅝	78	NW Bancrp	35⅛	37			
Duke Pwr	43	43⅝	Occid Petl	24⅝	24⅝			
East Kodak	44⅝	45⅝	Ogden Cp	24	25⅝			
Eaton Cp	71⅛	73⅝	Olin Cp	35⅝	35⅝			
Emerson El	28⅝	29⅝	PPG Ind	31⅝	32⅞			
Emery Air	4⅛	4⅝	Pac Gas El	17⅝	17⅝			
Exxon	36	37⅝	Pan Am	3⅝	3⅝			
Farah Inc	7⅛	7⅝	Penney JC	41⅛	43⅝			
Fedders	5⅜	5⅜	Pennzoil	75⅝	78⅝			

CANADIAN PRICES

	Dec 3	Dec 2
Agnico Eag	28⅛	28⅛
Alcan Alum	32⅝	32½
Algoma Stl	14⅝	14⅝
Can Pacific	19⅛	19½
Cominco	12⅞	12⅞
Con Bathrst	15¾	15⅝
Hawk S Can	20	20
Hud Bay M	18⅝	18½
Imasco	25¼	25¼
Imperial Oil	52⅛	52½
Int Pipe	42¾	42½
Royl Trstco	13⅝	13⅝
Seagram	68⅝	68⅝
Shelco 'A'	32⅝	32⅝
Thmsn N 'A'	25⅝	25⅝
Varity Cp	3	3
WCT	15⅝	15⅝
Weston	32½	32⅝

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
October 5	October 16	January 7	January 18

Call options were taken out on: 4/12/87 Aran Energy, AB Engineering, Dares Estates, Armstrong Equipment, BP, Eagle Trust, Dewey Warren Hldgs., London Secs., Stormguard, North British Steel, J Williams, Cauldron, Argyle Group.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

	Series	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Puts Jan	Puts Apr	Puts Jul
Alld Lyon (*333)	300	35	53	60	9	17	27
	330	18	35	42	20	32	42
	360	8	22	30	47	50	57
Bass (*778)	750	45	70	93	37	55	70
	800	25	50	72	70	80	100
	850	13	32	55	110	120	153
Brit Air (*128)	120	16	22	26	6	12	15
	140	10	16	21	12	16	19
	160	6	11	16	18	23	26
Brit Com (*296)	300	25	50	65	22	35	45
	330	10	30	40	45	55	60
	360	5	20	30	70	75	85
Brit Gas (*122)	120	11	15	22	6	11	16
	130	6	9	16	13	17	23
	140	—	7	12	—	28	32
BP (*242)	240	15	24	32	13	20	25
	260	9	16	24	28	33	38
	280	—	10	16	—	48	53
Britoil (*170)	160	28	33	40	12	20	27
	180	15	25	30	24	32	38
	200	6	16	23	36	41	50
Cons Gold (*895)	800	140	165	190	40	70	80
	850	100	130	170	60	90	120
	950	75	100	140	75	120	160
Courtauld (*317)	300	30	45	60	13	25	40
	330	13	33	43	30	43	56
	360	5	20	32	52	68	75
	390	2	13	28	80	88	97
Com Union (*303)	280	30	40	50	12	20	32
	300	20	30	40	20	35	43
	330	8	17	27	40	55	60
C & W (*305)	260	50	70	82	5	16	20
	280	40	50	70	10	22	30
	300	23	43	58	17	30	43
	330	12	28	43	37	45	53
GEC (*154)	160	9	17	21	14	20	22
	180	3	9	15	30	34	38
	200	1½	6	10	49	52	54
GKN (*246)	240	23	32	39	12	23	28
	260	13	22	31	23	34	39
	280	7	16	24	40	47	51
	300	4	10	18	54	61	66
Grand Met (*374)	360	30	40	56	15	30	38
	390	18	28	40	35	45	52
	420	10	20	33	53	63	70
	460	5	12	23	92	97	98
ICI (*960)	950	50	85	120	48	90	105
	1000	40	65	98	65	120	130
	1050	28	45	80	125	150	157
	1100	17	35	65	170	185	190
Jaguar (*253)	280	11	22	34	30	39	43
	300	8	19	29	47	55	58
	330	5	12	21	73	78	81
Land Sec (*405)	390	43	67	77	17	27	43
	420	27	47	57	38	45	60
	460	15	37	47	68	75	85
M & S (*164)	160	16	24	28	11	17	22
	180	6	14	18	24	30	32
	200	2	8	14	40	42	44
R-Royce (*97)	110	4	9	13	17	21	25
	120	2	6	10	26	29	32
	130	1½	4	8	35	38	41
	140	1	3	5	45	48	50
Sainsbury (*212)	220	10	22	28	16	25	28
	240	4	14	13	35	38	49
	260	2	8	14	52	55	58
Shell (*948)	950	50	80	105	57	100	130
	1000	30	60	87	87	130	140
	1050	20	43	72	130	170	175
Storehse (*243)	220	35	53	62	11	11	17
	240	23	42	50	20	20	27
	260	15	32	40	23	33	38
	280	10	23	32	35	44	48
Trafalgar (*295)	280	30	40	52	17	25	30
	300	20	27	42	30	40	46
	330	10	20	30	55	60	65
TSB (*104)	100	12	15	20	5½	9	12
	110	7	11	14	10	14	17
	120	5	8	11	20	22	23
Woolworth (*240)	260	11	23	30	35	40	50
	280	6	18	22	50	55	60
	300	2	12	18	70	70	75
	330	1	8	12	100	100	100

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Amstrad (*105)	100	10	18	23	7	10	15
	110	4	14	18	12	16	20
	120	2½	10	15	20	22	27
Barclays (*430)	420	22	47	65	12	30	42
	460	5	27	45	37	52	62
	500	3	17	28	75	90	100
Beecham (*423)	360	63	80	90	1	13	19
	390	33	58	70	4	25	30
	420	12	40	55	17	35	45
	460	3	25	40	50	70	65
Boots (*207)	220	4	23	25	22	28	35
	240	2	14	20	38	43	48
	260	1	8	16	57	58	65
BTR (*257)	240	24	36	47	4½	14	20
	260	10	27	35	15	22	35
	280	3	18	23	30	37	42
Blue Circ (*296)	300	12	30	45	15	30	35
	330	3	20	32	40	52	55
	360	—	13	22	—	70	75
Dixons (*192)	200	7	20	30	17	27	30
	220	4	15	22	33	38	40
	240	1	10	17	52	53	55

	Series	Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
De Beers (*950)	1050	40	—	—	50	—	—
	1100	15	—	—	100	—	—
	1200	5	—	—	—	—	—
Glaxo (*988)	1000	33	90	125	50	90	120
	1050	15	70	105	80	105	145
	1100	7	55	90	135	140	175
	1150	3	45	75	180	185	210
Hanson (*121)	110	12	17	22	1½	8	11
	120	5	11	15	6	13	15
	130	1½	7½	12	13	19	22
	140	1	5	9	24	26	29
Lonrho (*211)	200	16	30	40	3	16	24
	220	5	20	30	13	26	34
	240	—	11	22	—	40	48
	260	—	8	14	—	58	64
Midland (*345)	330	25	45	57	7	22	33
	360	10	32	42	22	43	55
	390	3	22	30	50	65	75
Sears (*125)	120	10	20	23	5	10	14
	130	5	13	18	9	15	19
	140	2½	9	14	17	22	25
Tesco (*152)	140	14	26	31	2	12	16
	160	—	16	22	—	24	27
	183	½	8	—	7	37	—
Thorn EMI (*524)	460	70	92	112	5	23	32
	500	42	67	85	13	37	50
	550	11	37	67	37	58	77
	600	3	20	33	80	87	100
THF (*185)	180	15	25	30	7	17	23
	200	5	16	22	20	28	33
	220	3	11	16	45	50	63
Unilever (*433)	420	25	48	62	14	32	42
	460	10	32	47	40	53	64
	500	3	20	35	80	83	90
Wellcome (*360)	330	62	80	92	2½	15	23
	360	28	60	75	9	25	35
	390	12	45	62	23	40	48

	Series	Calls Feb	Calls May	Calls Aug	Puts Feb	Puts May	Puts Aug
BAA (*85)	90	7	15	17	13	16	19
	100	6	11	14	21	23	37
	110	4	7	11	31	31	33
Brit Aero (*294)	280	38	48	55	20	32	37
	300	28	38	47	27	42	47
	330	17	25	35	47	62	67
BAT Ind (*394)	390	37	48	58	28	43	48
	420	22	35	47	43	62	65
	460	13	23	35	80	90	95
	500	7	15	—	115	125	—
Brit Tele (*206)	200	16	25	30	12	16	22
	220	10	15	22	28	28	35
	240	5	10	15	42	45	48
Cadbury (*225)	200	35	40	44	4	11	17
	220	22	27	35	15	23	27
	240	11	20	27	27	35	38
Guinness (*259)	220	48	55	60	7	13	18
	240	35	40	48	14	22	30
	260	22	30	40	23	35	42
Ladbroke (*289)	280	35	50	55	16	23	28
	300	24	37	46	25	35	40
	330	13	25	32	42	52	55
LASMO (*208)	200	31	38	45	20	27	32
	220	18	28	35	28	35	42
	240	13	20	30	40	48	55
Pilkingtn (*194)	180	25	37	45	22	30	37
	200	15	25	35	32	40	47
	220	8	17	27	47	52	57
	240	4	10	—	62	67	—
Plessey (*141)	130	19	25	29	10	13	16
	140	12	20	24	15	23	25
	160	7	14	17	28	32	34
P & O (*480)	420	77	95	—	15	17	—
	460	50	70	93	27	30	40
	500	35	53	68	45	50	65
Prudential (*745)	750	70	80	105	50	75	95
	800	45	65	80	80	105	125
	850	30	50	—	120	135	—
Racal (*205)	200	26	36	—	18	22	—
	220	14	24	36	30	36	40
	240	9	18	26	45	50	54
RTZ (*320)	260	75	100	—	6	12	—
	280	65	85	—	13	30	—
	300	55	70	90	27	50	70
	330	35	53	65	45	70	90
Vaal Reefs (*116)	100	25	28	38	7	13	18
	110	18	23	33	12	18	23
	120	12	18	28	18	25	30
Tr 11¾% 1991 (*£106)	102	5⅝	—	—	⅝	—	—
	104	[illegible]	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
	106	1⅛	—	—	⅝	—	—
	108	[illegible]	—	—	[illegible]	—	—
Tr 11¾% 03/07 (*£117)	114	3⅝	4⅝	—	1⅝	2⅝	—
	116	[illegible]	3⅝	—	2⅝	3⅝	—
	118	1¾	2⅝	—	3[illegible]	4⅝	—
	120	1⅝	2[illegible]	—	4[illegible]	5⅝	—
	122	[illegible]	1⅝	—	6⅝	7[illegible]	—

FT-SE INDEX (*1574)

Series	Calls Dec	Calls Jan	Calls Feb	Calls Mar	Puts Dec	Puts Jan	Puts Feb	Puts Mar
1550	75	110	135	150	45	68	90	100
1600	50	83	110	125	72	92	115	125
1650	30	63	90	105	105	120	145	150
1700	15	47	70	—	145	155	175	—
1750	7	32	55	—	190	195	205	—
1800	5	23	45	—	240	240	250	—
1850	3	15	—	—	290	290	—	—
1900	3	10	—	—	340	340	—	—

December 4, 1987 Total: 20813 Calls 12300 Puts 8313 FT-SE: Calls 347 Puts 537

*Underlying security price.

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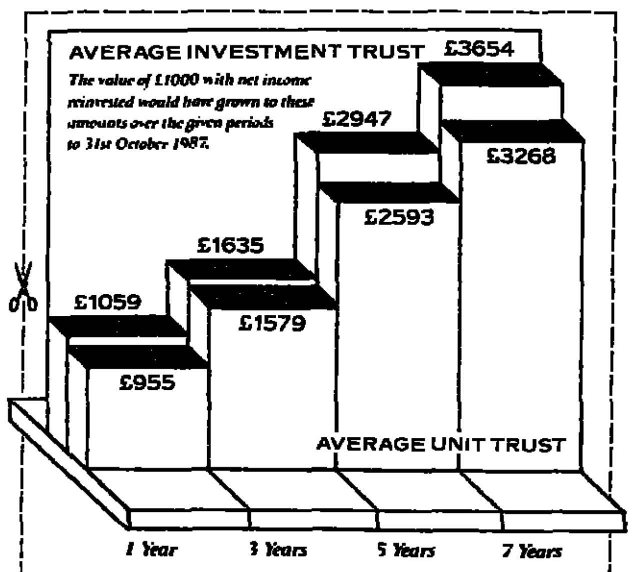

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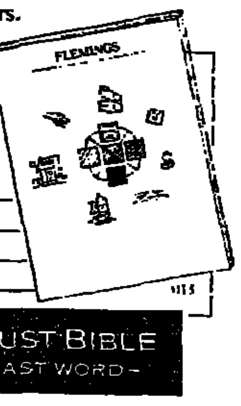

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[illegible]

Borrie concerned over key investor protection rules

By Lawrence Lever

Sir Gordon Borrie: deferring judgement on rules for a year

Sir Gordon Borrie, the director-general of Fair Trading, yesterday expressed concern over key sections of the rules on investor protection that come into effect next year.

Sir Gordon was delivering his report on the rule book formulated by Fimbra – the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association – one of the five self-regulating organizations, or SROs, which will be responsible for policing the investment industry.

The report has been prepared for Lord Young of Graffham, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Under the terms of the Financial Services Act, the Office of Fair Trading has to vet all the rule books of the SROs to see whether they are unduly anti-competitive.

The Fimbra rule book has cleared this hurdle – for the time being. Sir Gordon has said,however, that he is concerned about three important areas covered by the rule book, but will defer any judgement on them until he has seen the relevant rules in operation for a year.

One area of concern is the effect the Fimbra rules will have on the competitive position of independent intermediaries who sell life assurance and unit trusts.

Sir Gordon is concerned about the effects that the costs of complying with the Fimbra rule book will have on independent intermediaries – particularly smaller businesses. These costs include entrance fees, annual fees and capital adequacy requirements.

"No one can doubt the value of rules which ensure that savers get genuinely independent advice," he says. "But this objective would not be advanced if, as a result of unequal treatment, the ranks of independent intermediaries were seriously depleted, leaving the field to company representatives."

"Nothing could be more counterproductive at a time when the spread of equity investment in general and personal pensions in particular make disinterested and expert independent advice more necessary to the saving public than ever," he adds.

Sir Gordon is also concerned about rules relating to disclosure to the public of commissions earned on sales of life assurance products.

Under the Fimbra rules, commissions need not be disclosed if they are in line with an industry-wide commissions agreement.

Where this happens, the intermediary must tell his customer that commissions are in accordance with the industry agreement – but need not specify exactly how much they are.

Sir Gordon is not convinced this is the best way to tackle the issue. "Competition is best ensured by full disclosure to the client of the actual amount of commission received by the intermediary so that the client can compare it with that paid by other product companies on comparable products and the commission received by other intermediaries."

Sir Gordon's report also examines the treatment of investment trusts under the rule book and concludes that it does not seem even-handed compared with unit trusts and life assurance.

In particular, he looks at the Fimbra rule that its members must give customers best advice by choosing the financial product most suitable to their needs.

Sir Gordon highlights investment trusts savings schemes (ITSSs) – a cheaper way into the equity market than unit trusts.

These may be more suitable for the customer but may not be recommended because they do not pay commission – unlike unit trusts and life assurance.

Sir Gordon says: "I propose to keep under review the practices of Fimbra's members in advising their customers on the most suitable investments to establish whether ITSSs are given proper consideration."

£25m US bid wins Anchor Chemical

By Cliff Feltham

Anchor Chemical, the Manchester group, bowed to the inevitable yesterday and accepted a takeover bid worth £25.5 million from the American conglomerate Air Products.

The British firm never stood a chance of fighting a bid after Air Products took it by surprise and picked up a near-30 per cent stake from one of Anchor's long-standing shareholders.

A number of "white knights" took a look at the situation but backed away.

Last night, Dr Colin Tilley, a director of Anchor Chemical, said: "There were expressions of interest but they never really got off the ground.

"They all thought it difficult to fight a battle against someone already holding 30 per cent of the shares. They also thought the price was starting to look a little expensive."

Air Products paid 561p a share for its initial holding and is now offering 638p in cash for the remainder of the company.

Shareholders are also being given a special "bonus" interim dividend worth 5p a share.

In the stock market yesterday Anchor responded with a 35p leap to 650p. Earlier this year, the shares stood at a lowly 246p.

Air Products is keen on Anchor Chemical because of its niche position in speciality chemicals, particularly epoxy curing agents.

COMMENT Kenneth Fleet

Clever Kuwaitis set BP embarrassing questions

The market is puzzled by the behaviour of the Kuwait Investment Office. This usually staid, conservative, secretive and inoffensive organization has been greedily buying up British Petroleum partly-paid shares so it is now believed to have more than 11.5 per cent of the share capital of Britain's biggest oil company.

The accumulation of such a sizeable stake is potentially irritating to BP's chairman, Sir Peter Walters, and could be embarrassing to the British Government. The KIO is an arm of the Kuwaiti government, and Kuwait, as an oil producer with significant refining and marketing interests, is a major competitor of BP. For that reason, serious analysts do not believe that the KIO would be allowed to influence BP's management by, for instance, taking a seat on the board (which would not be offered). The Kuwaitis may be welcomed as long-term investors, but they cannot expect to be anything more.

If the KIO cannot hope to be more than an investor in BP, why is it buying the partly-paid shares, rather than the fully paid? Even allowing for the option value and the time value of money at current interest rates, the new shares are still at a 15p premium to the old. Usually, buyers have to pay a premium of some sort to build up a significant stake in any company, and 15p may well turn out to be derisory for what could ultimately be a 15 per cent stake in BP. In fact, the KIO would have been unable to buy the fully paid shares on this scale without driving up the price. And, perhaps most important, the new shares are available in the market: there is still a surfeit of sellers after the Government's sale.

None of this answers the question: "Why does the KIO want 10 per cent or even 15 per cent of BP?" City chaps are quick to point out that if it buys 15 per cent, the KIO would own half of the Government's recent offering, and this could have implications for the public sector borrowing requirement. If the KIO stopped buying now, the price might well sink below the Bank of England's 70p floor, leaving the Bank in the embarrassing position, possibly, of having to take back from the KIO more than 600 million shares.

Seriously, it cannot be the KIO's intention to embarrass either the Government or BP. More likely, in unique, never-to-be-repeated circumstances, it has made an opportunistic investment in BP for less than a third of the capital outlay of the fully paid shares, without moving the price.

It can enjoy the gearing effect if there is a bounce in the market before the next instalment on the new shares is due in August 1988. The fully paid old shares must rise by 15p or 20p before there is any impact on the partly-paid. But if the old shares rise 40p and the partly-paid by 20p, the percentage capital gain on the partly-paid is 28 per cent, compared with 16 per cent on the fully paid.

There may be nothing more to it than that. And how the Kuwaitis would preen themselves if the cards do fall their way.

Markets at a crossroads

Over the past week, when the financial markets have displayed about as much confidence as a tightrope walker with a wooden leg and vertigo, the serious questions have begun to be asked.

Should we be worried about world recession, inflation or both? And, closer to home, if the British economy is as immune to the stock market crash as we have been asked to believe, why is the Chancellor bending over backwards to compensate for its effects?

The performance of the gilt market yesterday encompassed all these concerns. The market acted precisely as if the European interest rate moves the day before had been upward rather than downward. It ended 1.5 points lower at the long end, with the upward slope of the yield curve becoming steeper.

There were some technical explanations for the gilt market's sour response. Market-makers had taken on perhaps £400 milllion of stock from the Bank of England on Thursday, in the expectation of a rally that never came. There was also a persistent rumour that one particular market-maker was over-stretched and unloading stock at a rapid rate.

But at the heart of the reaction, and central to the wider concerns affecting the markets at present, was the feeling that the US has won the Group of Seven battle of wills. The US has come up with an unsatisfactory budget package and the Administration has failed to make a solid commitment to supporting the dollar – notwithstanding intermittent reports of action by the New York Fed in the markets. And yet, the Europeans have cut interest rates and intervened to prop up the dollar and, in general, danced to America's tune.

This creates two potential difficulties. The first, as I wrote here on Tuesday, is that by allowing the dollar to fall, the Reagan Administration may succeed in diverting the necessary slowdown in the US to other countries. The second worry is that the US will also succeed in distributing the higher inflation that is bound to result from the dollar's fall.

The markets have reached an uneasy juncture. No longer is it the case that bond markets will respond to falling equity prices or even to the promise of cheaper money. We are in the rare situation where the gilt market would benefit from a rise in base rates.

News Corp to give notice of deals

From Richard Battley, Sydney

The News Corporation yesterday agreed not to take further steps to buy shares in Australian Associated Press and Australian Newsprint Mills from John Fairfax without notifying the Trade Practices Commission.

Mr Richard Searby, The News Corporation chairman, told the commission's chairman, Mr Bob McComas, the company would give the commission at least two days' notice before moving to acquire shares. It has also agreed to provide the commission with further information.

Mr Searby confirmed in a meeting with Mr McComas on Wednesday that The News Corporation planned to buy Fairfax's interest in AAP, Australia's sole national news agency, and in ANM, its main newsprint supplier.

If effected, the sales would give The News Corporation about 82 per cent of AAP and about 93 per cent of ANM. They would raise about Aus$275 million for Tryart Proprietary, the vehicle Mr Warwick Fairfax has used to take over the Sydney media group his family has controlled for 150 years.

The TPC said yesterday that talks with The News Corporation were continuing. "The News Corporation wishes to present certain material and proposals to the commission and has been asked to do so within seven days," it said.

The TPC is trying to determine whether the proposed acquisitions would contravene section 50 of the Trade Practices Act, which governs market dominance.

Priest Marians leaps to £4.27m

By Joe Joseph

Booming property prices and the acquisition a year ago of the Lincroft Kilgour textiles group helped to lift pretax profits at Priest Marians Holdings from £1.19 million to £4.27 million in the seven months to September 30.

There will be a dividend of 1.5p. The truncated reporting period reflects Priest's decision to change its financial year-end from February 28 after the Lincroft Kilgour purchase.

Mr Geoff Walters, the finance director, said: "We've had a very good run over the seven months. We were in a bull market and property prices were going crazy." But he conceded that the future may not be quite as rosy.

Having withdrawn from the scheme to redevelop the Spitalfields fruit and vegetable market in London, Priest is pinning its immediate hopes on its option to buy the Langham Estate from the Water Authorities pension funds.

Priest will ask shareholders next month to back plans to exercise the option for £87 million. Priest says the estate, which comprises 170 freehold properties in the West End of London, has recently been valued at £100 million.

Priest is also considering joining several other companies and buying its own shares after the stock market crash. It said a revenue surplus of £10 million on September 30 lifted basic net asset value to £2.35 a share from £1.55 at the end of February.

Benlox bid accepted by 1.55%

By Cliff Feltham

The bid by tiny Benlox for Sir Terence Conran's Storehouse group still looks stranded in fairyland.

The latest closing date shows the offer has attracted acceptances of just 1.55 per cent to add to the 0.3 per cent Benlox already owned. The offer has been extended until December 18.

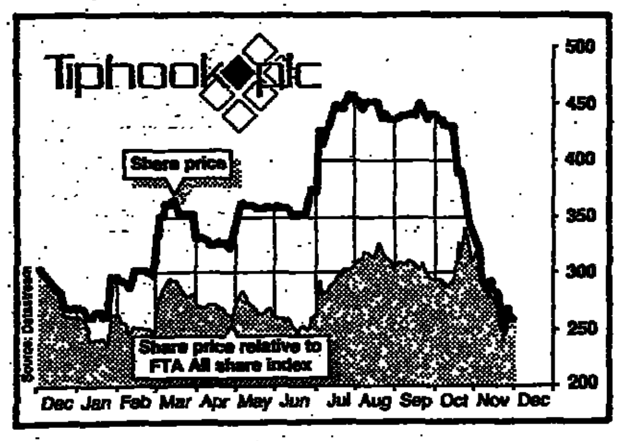
Sir Terence said: "Our shareholders have overwhelmingly rejected the Benlox proposals before and they have done so again. It is high time that Benlox accepted defeat and withdrew."

But Mr Malcolm Parkinson of Benlox said he was encouraged by the response from institutional shareholders".

Benlox has until Monday to revise the terms of its offer.

TEMPUS

Tiphook is boxing clever and sets sights on a strong finish



When Tiphook speaks of boxes it does not have cardboard in mind, and when it speaks of capital investment it talks in millions rather than thousands.

The group – whose trailer rental division has more than 5,500 units and whose container unit will easily top the 120,000 mark this year – is well up among the world leaders in the respective fields of renting containers, road trailers and rail wagons to the shipping, distribution and transportation industries. After a good set of interim figures, it is well placed for a strong year-end finish.

Half-time pretax profits of £2.86 million, compared with £1.51 million, mask a continued high level of interest payments – £6.5 million in the first half, up from £3 million in the corresponding period – and in the main reflect continuing growth within the container rental market.

The losses in the container manufacture division are being arrested, possibly leading to a modest profit contribution come year-end, while the profit contribution from the trailer rental division moved ahead.

Various balance sheet ratios still raise a few eyebrows – gearing is about 140 per cent and could be headed for 300 per cent, but then in its heyday gearing has been well above 400 per cent. However, the further rise in utilization levels more than compensates, as does the real growth at the net earnings a share level, despite the impact of rights issues.

Utilization in the trailer sector is now about 90 per cent, and within container rentals it has improved from 91 per cent to 94 per cent.

As long as there are still positive growth rates in the economies of the countries in which it largely operates, and with limited exposure to the US, Tiphook should not be too seriously affected by economic clouds now gathering.

And because rate increases of between 20 per cent and 30 per cent are being passed on to customers, and sticking, further profits growth looks assured, with pretax profits for the year to end-April of about £8.5 million within sight.

Capital expenditure is running at £100 million this year, and will be another £100 million-plus next, and new depot openings in Doncaster, Bristol and Amsterdam will further expand the network.

The shares were 20p higher at 275p yesterday where they trade on 10.6 times earnings. If economies hold up, the shares should continue to roll.

Charter Consolidated

Unless there is a banana skin between here and Wednesday, Charter Consolidated cannot fail to report anything other than higher interim pretax profits for the six months ended September and, in the Christmas spirit, should be raising its dividend.

Like a magician whose tricks are spoiled by the audience seeing up his sleeve, there have been two vital clues to Charter profits in recent days – the interim reports from Johnson Matthey and Cape Industries. Both were good and both companies' prospects for the second half remain bright. Charter is a significant shareholder in both.

But the strongest performance in the Charter stable, and one which should become more evident in the second half, should be seen on the interest and investment front.

Charter, which under a new management drive has been weeding out and selling off a number of passive investments, should still be sitting with comfortable cash balances, possibly around the £150 million gross mark.

In the year ended March, Charter turned in pretax profits of £42.2 million, compared with £28.8 million in 1986. For this first half, profits of £23.4 million, compared with £17.9 million, are possible. For the full year, an advance to the £50.8 million mark could be on the cards.

As a two-way bet against inflation and recession, Charter has its attractions. There is Johnson Matthey on the one hand, and cash on the other.

The astute should be looking at Charter at 288p on a historic yield of 6.5 per cent before Wednesday dawns.

Birmid/Blue Circle

As cement is used quite a lot in the building trade it is hard for Blue Circle, Britain's leading manufacturer, to find a route for domestic expansion without infringing the industry taboo and competing with its customers.

That said, however, Birmid Qualcast, of boiler, cooker and lawnmower fame, is hardly the obvious choice, even if with some leaps of the imagination, up to 70 per cent of its businesses can be categorized as sexy, 'home improvement' activities.

Blue Circle needs earnings close to home or else an advanced corporation tax problem will arise. Perhaps it is also momentarily disillusioned with its brave *sortie* into the USA, where apart from current drawbacks of dollar earnings, the group is recovering from the ravages of a fierce ready-mixed concrete price war.

It also has a coffer of cash repatriated from overseas investments and a strong domestic cash flow.

But the conceptual hurdle Blue Circle's shareholders need to overcome if required to support the group if its uses its 9.3 per cent stake in Birmid to launch a bid, agreed or hostile, is lack of proven non-cement expertise.

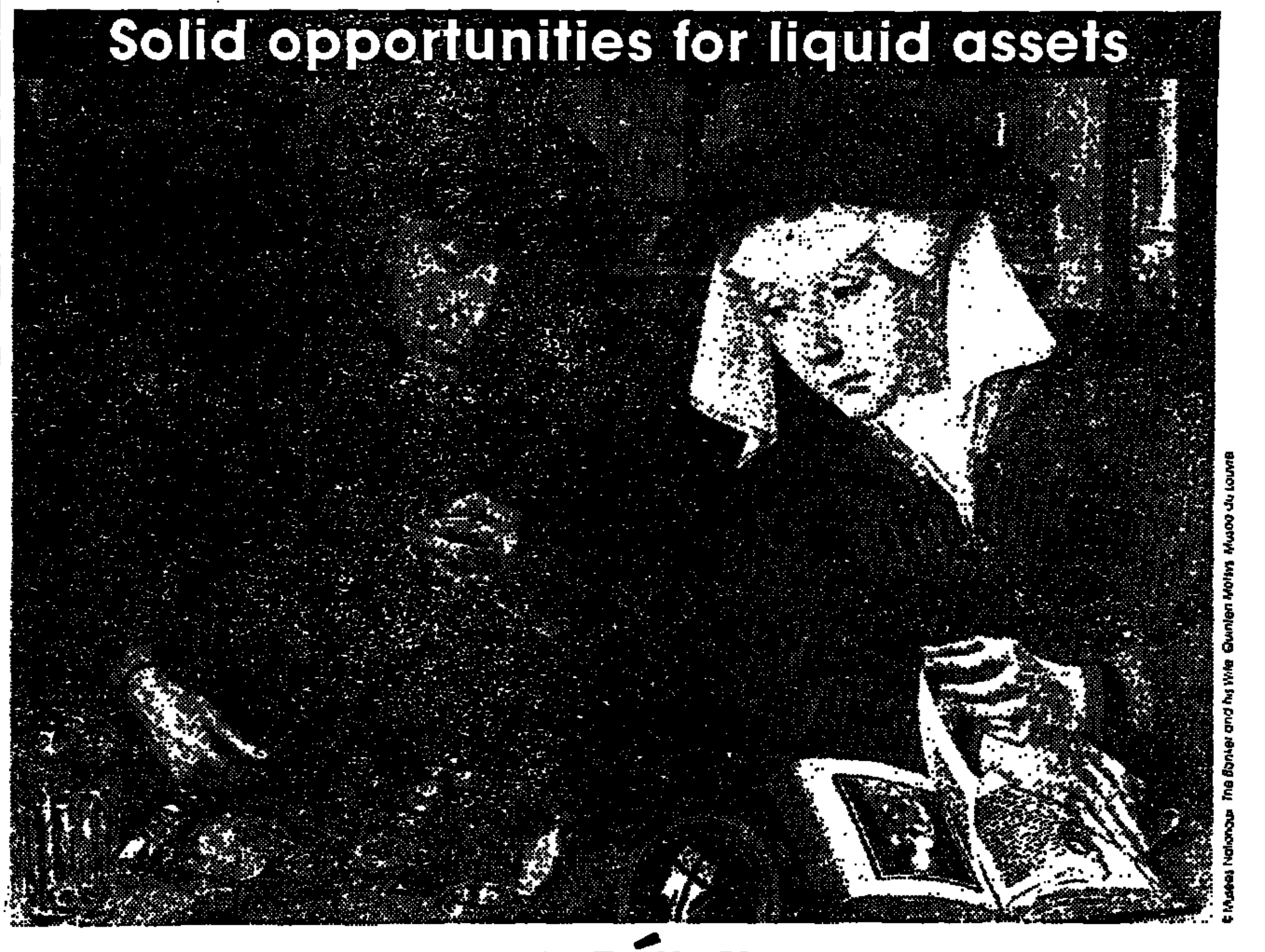
Sanitaryware manufacturer, Armitage Shanks, has been part of Blue Circle since the beginning of the decade, but for reasons partly internal and partly due to distractions from the cement business, the opportunity was missed to establish it in a fast growing home improvement market.

Meanwhile, Birmid's management is in training, having recently fought off Hepworth's advances. Its support for Blue Circle when the groups meet on Monday will be crucial. Their management skills may be in demand at Blue Circle, both now and in the future.

A price agreed or otherwise is likely to be at least 350p, putting Birmid's shares on an exit p-e of 14.5, more than twice Blue Circle's p-e of 6.

Expect developments next week. But it seems a pity that Blue Circle chose not to whet the market's appetite with a diversification debut in more familiar markets.

Solid opportunities for liquid assets



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Assets & Earns	113.2	120.6●	-1.4	2.20
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Euro Tst Inc	19.1	20.3●	-0.1	0.17
Do Acc	19.2	20.4●	-0.1	..
Global Gth Inc	25.0	26.5●	+0.1	0.19
Do Acc	25.2	26.8●	+0.1	..
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Gth	69.5	74.0	-1.5	0.86
Prop Share	36.8	39.2●	-0.2	2.25

Prices refer to Thursday's trading

● Ex dividend. c Cum dividend. k Cum stock split. s Ex stock split. m Cum all (any two or more of above). a Ex all (any two or more of above). Dealing or valuation days: (1) Monday. (2) Tuesday. (3) Wednesday (4) Thursday. (5) Friday. (20) 25th of month. (21) 2nd Thursday of month. (22) 1st and 3rd Wednesday of month. (23) 20th of month. (24) 3rd Tuesday of month. (25) 1st and 3rd Thursday of month. (26) 4th Tuesday of month. (27) 1st Wednesday of month. (28) Last Thursday of month. (29) 3rd working day of month. (30) 16th of month. (31) 1st working day of month (32) 20th of month. (33) 1st day of February, May, August, November. (34) Last working day of month. (35) 15th of month. (36) 14th of month. (37) 21st of month. (38) 3rd Wednesday of month. (39) 2nd Wednesday of month. (40) Valued monthly. (41) Last Thursday of Stock Exchange account. (42) Last day of month. (43) 2nd and 4th Wednesday of month. (44) Quarterly. (45) 8th of month. (46) 2nd Tuesday of month.

UNLISTED SECURITIES

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1975 was down at 75.8 (day's range 75.8-76.0).

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for December 5

	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
New Yrk	1.7975-1.8130	1.7975-1.7985	0.12-parpr	0.41-0.36pr
Montrl	2.3547-2.3659	2.3547-2.3578	0.04p-0.07d	0.13p-0.26d
Amstrdm	2.3690-2.3740	2.3694-2.3730	1½-1pr	3½-3pr
Brussels	62.36-62.65	62.36-62.52	11-8pr	32-27pr
Copnhgn	11.5362-11.5940	11.5362-11.5606	¾-2ds	3½-5¾ds
Dublin	1.1255-1.1296	1.1261-1.1271	3pr-1ds	2pr-7ds
Frankft	2.9946-3.0009	2.9966-3.0009	1½-1¼pr	3⅞-3⅝pr
Lisbon	241.83-245.93	241.83-243.11	90-142ds	285-390ds
Madrid	202.76-203.68	203.18-203.68	75-95ds	207-387ds
Milan	2208.80-2215.15	2208.80-2213.62	3-5ds	11-7pr
Oslo	11.5695-11.6422	11.5695-11.5939	5⅞-6⅞ds	17½-19ds
Paris	10.1412-10.2050	10.1412-10.1828	⅛pr-½ds	¼pr-⅜ds
Stckhlm	10.8401-10.8771	10.8401-10.8641	par-1ds	1-2¼ds
Tokyo	238.58-239.18	238.58-238.98	1-¾pr	2⅞-2⅝pr
Vienna	20.91-21.12	20.92-20.94	7⅞-6⅞pr	19-15⅞pr
Zurich	2.4471-2.4541	2.4495-2.4536	1⅛-⅞pr	3⅛-2⅞pr

Premium = pr. Discount = ds.

OTHER STERLING RATES

Argentina austral*	7.6288-7.7220
Australia dollar	2.5812-2.5864
Bahrain dinar	0.6805-0.6845
Brazil cruzado*	115.48-116.08
Cyprus pound	0.8100-0.8200
Finland marka	7.3550-7.3950
Greece drachma	235.50-273.50
Hong Kong dollar	13.996-14.010
India rupee	23.32-23.52
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4975-0.5015
Malaysia dollar	4.5038-4.5100
Mexico peso	39.70-40.70
New Zealand dollar	2.8215-2.8321
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.7650-6.8050
Singapore dollar	3.6636-3.6712
S Africa rand (fin)	5.4245-5.5110
S Africa rand (com)	3.5541-3.5832
U A E dirham	6.6275-6.6675

*Lloyds Bank. Rates supplied by Extel and Barclays Bank HOFEX

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.5955-1.5975	Denmark	6.4050-6.4100	Italy	1222.0-1226.0
Singapore	2.0320-2.0350	W Germany	1.6610-1.6620	Belgium (Com)	34.70-34.75
Malaysia	2.4980-2.5000	Switzerland	1.3570-1.3580	Hong Kong	7.7640-7.7660
Australia	0.6975-0.6985	Netherlands	1.8680-1.8690	Portugal	135.50-136.00
Canada	1.3100-1.3110	France	5.6420-5.6445	Spain	112.90-113.10
Sweden	6.0150-6.0200	Japan	132.30-132.40	Austria	11.71-11.73
Norway	6.4400-6.4450				

Rates supplied by Barclays Bank HOFEX and Extel.

MONEY MARKETS

Base Rates %: Clearing Banks 8½ *Finance Hse 9½*
Discount Market Loans %
Overnight High: 8½ Low 6½ Week fixed: 8⅝
Treasury Bills (Discount %)
Buying: 2 mth – 8$^{5}/_{16}$ 3 mth – 8⅛
Selling: 2 mth – 8$^{1}/_{16}$ 3 mth – 8
Prime Bank Bills (Discount %)
1 mth: 8$^{11}/_{32}$-8$^{5}/_{16}$ 2 mth: 8$^{9}/_{32}$-8$^{3}/_{16}$ 3 mth: 8$^{7}/_{32}$-8⅛
6 mth 8$^{7}/_{32}$-8⅛
Trade Bills (Discount %)
1 mth: 9 2 mth: 8$^{15}/_{16}$ 3 mth: 8⅞
6 mth 8⅞
Interbank (%). Overnight: open 8½ close 7½
1 week: 8⅝-8½ 1 mth: 8⅝-8½ 3 mth: 8⅝-8½
6 mth: 8$^{11}/_{16}$-8⅝ 9 mth: 8$^{13}/_{16}$-8$^{11}/_{16}$ 12 mth: 8⅞-8$^{13}/_{16}$
Local Authority Deposits (%)
2 day: 8½ 7 day: 8½ 1 mth: 8⅝
3 mth: 8⅝ 6 mth: 8⅝ 12 mth: 8⅞
Local Authority Bonds (%)
1 mth: 8⅞-8¾ 2 mth: 8$^{13}/_{16}$-8$^{9}/_{16}$ 3 mth: 8$^{13}/_{16}$-8$^{9}/_{16}$
6 mth: 8$^{13}/_{16}$-8$^{9}/_{16}$ 9 mth: 8⅞-8⅝ 12 mth: 8$^{15}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$
Sterling CDs (%)
1 mth: 8½-8⅜ 3 mth: 8½-8⅜ 6 mth: 8$^{9}/_{16}$-8$^{7}/_{16}$
12 mth: 8¾-8⅝

Dollar CDs (%)
1 mth: 8.00-7.95 3 mth: 7.75-7.70 6 mth: 7.75-7.70
12 mth: 8.00-7.95

EURO MONEY DEPOSITS %

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth
Dollar:	8$^{13}/_{16}$-8$^{9}/_{16}$	7$^{15}/_{16}$-7$^{13}/_{16}$	7$^{13}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$	7$^{13}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$
Call: 6⅝-5⅝				
Deutschemark:	3$^{1}/_{16}$-2$^{15}/_{16}$	3$^{9}/_{16}$-3$^{7}/_{16}$	3$^{9}/_{16}$-3$^{7}/_{16}$	3$^{11}/_{16}$-3$^{9}/_{16}$
Call: 3½-2½				
French Franc:	8$^{5}/_{16}$-8$^{1}/_{16}$	8$^{13}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$	8⅞-8⅝	9-8⅞
Call: 8¼-7¼				
Swiss Franc:	1$^{7}/_{16}$-1$^{3}/_{16}$	3$^{13}/_{16}$-$^{11}/_{16}$	3⅞-3¾	3⅞-3¾
Call: 1½-½				
Yen:	4$^{9}/_{16}$-4$^{7}/_{16}$	4$^{11}/_{16}$-4$^{9}/_{16}$	4⅞-4¾	4$^{7}/_{16}$-4$^{5}/_{16}$
Call: 3¼-2¼				

TREASURY BILLS

Applcts: £903.5m allotted: £100m
Bids: £97.98% received: 85%
Last week: £97.975% received: 16%
Avge rate: £8.0872% last wk: £8.4842%
Next week: £100m replace £200m

GOLD

BULLION:
Open: $487.00-487.50 Close: $488.00-488.50
High: $480.00-481.00 Low: $479.50-480.50

COINS: **Per coin (*Ex VAT)**
Britannia: $494.00-499.00 (£274.00-277.00)
Krugerrand*: $479.00-482.00 (£266.00-268.00)
Mapleleaf (1oz): $494.00-499.00 (£274.00-277.00)
American Eagles: $494.00-499.00 (£274.00-277.00)
New Sovereigns*: $113.00-114.00 (£62.75-63.50)
Old Sovereigns*: $113.00-114.50 (£62.75-63.75)
Platinum: $494.00 (£274.65)
Palladium: $112.75 (£62.70)
Silver: $6.60-6.63 (£3.670-3.690)

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
Three Month Sterling			Previous open interest 24892		
Dec 87	91.43	91.45	91.35	91.35	2775
Mar 88	91.58	91.60	91.48	91.47	4592
Jun 88	91.42	91.42	91.38	91.31	153
Sep 88	91.23	91.23	91.19	91.14	112
Dec 88	91.04	91.06	91.00	90.97	232
Mar 89	90.83	90.83	90.83	90.77	10
Three Month Eurodollar			Previous open interest 37917		
Dec 87	92.31	92.32	92.22	92.24	1102
Mar 88	92.37	92.39	92.28	92.32	3469
Jun 88	92.12	92.14	92.05	92.06	365
Sep 88	91.81	91.82	91.77	91.73	155
Dec 88	91.52	91.52	91.52	91.44	11
Mar 89	NT	—	—	91.20	0

	Open	High	Low	Close	Vol
US Treasury Bond			Previous open interest 5946		
Dec 87	88-07	88-12	87-23	88-04	1211
Mar 88	87-08	87-14	86-19	87-05	8142
Jun 88	NT	—	—	86-11	0
Long Gilt			Previous open interest 27428		
Dec 87	120-22	120-22	118-31	119-02	1590
Mar 88	120-31	121-02	118-27	119-05	25872
FT-SE 100			Previous open interest 8292		
Dec 87	158.00	159.00	155.50	158.40	1653
Mar 88	160.40	160.50	158.50	161.30	227
Japanese Govt Bond			Previous open interest 711		
Dec 87	106.40	106.40	106.15	106.15	8
Mar 88	106.18	106.30	105.80	105.85	324

COMMODITIES

ICIS-LOR Group
A technical attack on futures resistance pulled Jan Brent up to $18.37. Price volatility and talk of a possible squeeze in Jan turned Feb into the reference month for wet oil. Products firmed leading to light activity on the near end of the barrel at marginally higher prices.

CRUDE OILS/assessed ($/BBL FOB)

Brent Phys	17.95	-5
15 day Jan	18.20	
15 day Feb	17.95	
WTI Jan	18.80	
WTI Feb	18.50	-5

PRODUCTS Buy/sell $/MT.
Spot CIF NW Euro - prompt delivery

Prem Gas .15	-1	178-180	-1
Gasoil EEC	+1	169-170	+2
Non 1H Dec	+1	164-165	+1
Non 1H Jan	+1	164-165	+2
3.5 Fuel Oil	-1	80-82	
Naphta	+1	155-156	+1

BIFFEX
GNI Freight Futures Dry Cargo ($10/pt)
Jan 88 Hi 1295-1283 Low Close 1295.0
Apr 88 Hi 1320-1304 Low Close 1319.0
Jul 88 Hi 1165-1160 Low Close 1165.0
Oct 88 Hi——— Low Close 1257.5
Vol 371 lots Open interest 1445
Dry cargo index 1231.0 +4.5 on 3/12/87

GAS OIL G W Joynson

Dec	164.75-64.50
Jan	164.50-64.25
Feb	161.25-61.00
Mar	158.00-57.00
Apr	153.75-53.50
May	152.50-51.50
Jun	152.25-51.75
Jul	153.00-49.00
Aug	155.00-48.00
Vol	6427

HVY FUEL OIL Reuter
Dec unq.
Jan unq.
Vol 0

LONDON POTATO FUTURES (£/tonne)

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	100.0	100.0
Mar	90.0	88.5
Apr	147.0	145.6
May	160.6	160.5

Vol 276

LONDON FOX

COCOA G W Joynson
Dec 1095-094 Sep 1194-193
Mar 1137-135 Dec 1216-214
May 1155-154 Mar 1238-237
Jul 1174-172 Vol 7008

COFFEE G W Joynson
Jan 1240-239 Sep 1315-310
Mar 1265-260 Nov 1329-320
May 1285-283 Jan 1350-330
Jul 1300-297 Vol 1561

SUGAR C Czarnikow
FOB Vol: 1771
Mar 178.8-78.6 Oct 180.0-79.6
May 178.8-78.6 Dec 182.0-80.8
Aug 179.0-78.8 Mar 186.0-85.0

LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
WHEAT close (£/t) Vol 178
Ja 116.35 Mr 118.15 My 120.40
Jl 122.75 Sp 103.35 Nv 105.35
BARLEY close (£/t) Vol 10
Ja 108.40 Mr 110.20 My 111.35
Sp 97.60 Nv 99.85 Ja 102.25
SOYABEAN
Feb 146.5-45.0 Oct 128.0-23.0
Apr 138.0-38.0 Dec 128.0-24.0
Jun 128.0-26.5
Aug 128.0-23.0 Vol 55

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE
Official prices/volume previous day Rudolf Wolf

(£/tonne)	Cash	3 month	Vol	Tone
Copper Gde A	1355.0-1360.0	1206.0-1207.0	219050	Steadier
Copper Stand	1230.0-1250.0	1180.0-1200.0	75	Idle
Lead	365.00-365.50	346.00-346.50	43250	Brly/Stdy
Zinc Hi Gde	472.00-472.50	476.00-477.00	32000	Brly/Stdy
Silver Large†	681.00-684.00	695.00-697.00	5	Quiet
Silver Small†	681.00-684.00	695.00-697.00	Nil	Idle
Aluminium	905.00-905.50	895.00-896.00	156950	Easier
Aluminium HI*	1660.0-1670.0	1645.0-1655.0	9750	Idle
Nickel	3630-3640	3590-3600	6300	Steady

† (Cents per Troy oz). * ($ per tonne)

LONDON MEAT FUTURES (£/kg)
Live Pig Contract

Mth	Open	Close
Feb	91.3	91.3
Apr	93.8	93.8
Jun	93.8	93.8
Aug	94.3	94.3

Live Cattle Contract

Jan	103.0	103.0
Feb	103.0	103.0
Apr	100.5	100.5

Vol Pig-0 Cattle-0

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION
Av'ge fatstock prices at representative markets on December 4

(kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB (p)	72.34	201.96	103.41
GB (+/–)	+2.54	*+6.26	+1.24
Eng/Wal (%)	+40.8	-0.3	+13.8
Eng/Wal (p)	72.34	201.79	103.28
Eng/Wal (+/–)	+2.54	+6.44	+1.39
Scotland (%)	n/a	-2.8	-2.8
Scotland (p)	n/a	203.01	104.75
Scotland (+/–)	n/a	+10.66	+0.22

* Estimated dead carcase weight

هكذا في الاصل

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Equities trim losses

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 23. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day December 7. Settlement day December 14.
§Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks. (VOLUMES PAGE 24)

Portfolio —Gold—

From your portfolio card check your eight share price movements, on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figure. If it matches, you have won outright or a share of the total daily prize money stated. If you are a winner follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Ward Hldgs	Building,Roads	
2	Hunter Saphir	Foods	
3	Hammerson	Property	
4	Office Elect Mach	Industrials L-R	
5	Cliffords Dairies	Foods	
6	Williams Hldgs	Industrials S-Z	
7	Unigate (aa)	Foods	
8	Smallshaw (R)	Textiles	
9	Siebe	Industrials S-Z	
10	T & S Stores	Drapery,Stores	
11	Wolseley	Industrials S-Z	
12	Imp Chem Ind (aa)	Chemicals,Plas	
13	TNT	Industrials S-Z	
14	Parkdale	Property	
15	Eng China Clay (aa)	Industrials E-K	
16	Charter Cons	Industrials A-D	
17	Burton (aa)	Drapery,Stores	
18	Olives Paper	Paper,Print,Adv	
19	Mecca Leisure	Leisure	
20	Ladbroke (aa)	Hotels,Caterers	
21	Anglo Utd	Building,Roads	
22	Hawley (aa)	Industrials E-K	
23	Hestair	Industrials E-K	
24	Morland	Breweries	
25	Salvesen (Chstn)	Foods	
26	Firstland	Oil & Gas	
27	Micro Focus	Electricals	
28	Baird (Wm)	Industrials A-D	
29	Coates Bros	Chemicals,Plas	
30	FR Group	Motors,Aircraft	
31	Fisons (aa)	Industrials E-K	
32	King & Shaxson	Banks,Discount	
33	Bristol	Newspapers,Pub	
34	Western Selection	Electricals	
35	Leisure Inv	Leisure	
36	Tie Rack	Drapery,Stores	
37	Woodside	Oil & Gas	
38	Midsummer	Leisure	
39	Emess	Electricals	
40	Bellway	Building,Roads	
41	Eurotherm	Electricals	
42	Triton Europe	Oil & Gas	
43	Laporte (aa)	Chemicals,Plas	
44	Henderson	Building, Roads	
	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Daily Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Portfolio —Gold—

DAILY DIVIDEND £12000 Claims required for -28 points	WEEKLY DIVIDEND £8,000 Claims required for +91 points

Claimants should ring 0254-53272

BRITISH FUNDS

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1987 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
440	278	Provident	302	310	..	18.5	6.0	10.8
165	58	Rea Bros	53	63	..	2.0	3.4	11.1
216	113	Rothschild (J) Hld	146	155	●-2	8.2	5.4	8.1
449	273	Ryl Bk Scot (aa)	310	315	+10	17.4	5.5	5.8
17	705	Schroders	8	10	+¼	22.6	2.5	14.0
843	122	Stand Chart (aa)	430	440	..	48.0	11.0	5.4
154	97	TSB (aa)	183	186	-1	6.5	8.2	..
10¼	690	Union	790	815	..	63.0	7.8	9.3
576	363	Warburg SG	285	300	-2	14.4	4.9	..
198	102	Do 6% 'A'	106	108	-1	8.2	7.7	..
37⅞	21¼	Wells Fargo	21½		-⅛	..	..	..
650	290	Westpac	430	455	..	8.5	1.9	17.4

BREWERIES

1987 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
471	308	Allied-Lyons (aa)	330	335		15.6	4.7	9.9
10¼	729	Bass (aa)	777	785	+2	26.8	3.4	10.9
77	35	Belhaven	35	37	-1	1.0	2.8	12.9
233	124	Boddington	128	132	-5	5.1	3.9	14.2
796	537	Brown (Matthew)	625	635	-10	19.2b	3.0	22.0
246	131	Buckleys	150	160	-10	4.4	2.8	47.8
239	140	Bulmer (H P)	140	148	-3	7.9	5.5	10.2
185	125	Burtonwood Brew	122	128	●-2	4.0	3.2	20.2
535	385	Clark (Matthew)	380	390	-10	12.3	3.2	12.9
361	202	Devenish (JA)	240	247	-5	4.0	1.6	33.7
279½	150	Greenall Whitley	175	182	-1	8.2	4.6	9.1
483	259	Greene King	445	453	..	8.9	2.0	23.1
390	225	Guinness (aa)	258	265	-4	12.6	4.8	9.4
795	473	Hardys & Hansons	675	685	..	26.4	3.9	15.1
97	66	Highland Dist	75	78	●-2	3.4	4.4	12.0
223	138	Invergordon Dist	148	155		7.5	4.9	9.9
248	145	Irish Dist	155	175	-10	6.0	3.6	..
154	113	Marston Thompson	114	117	-2	3.6	3.1	14.7
603	345	Morland	457	470	-4	10.8	2.3	13.1
470	131	SA Breweries	275	300	●+3	..	..	..
270	178	Scot & New (aa)	211	215	-2	10.9	5.1	11.8
589	455	Vaux	462	470	-4	18.6	4.0	18.5
385	251	Whitbread 'A' (aa)	268	272	●-7	12.6	4.7	11.3
400	248	Do 'B'	290	305	-1	12.6	4.2	12.6
374	210	Whitbread Inv	268	275	●-3	11.6	4.3	31.6
424	277½	Wolverhampton & D	298	305	-3	7.0	2.3	17.8
477	274	Young 'A'	327	347	● ..	12.3	3.6	19.6

BUILDING, ROADS

1987 High	Low	Company	Price Bid	Offer	Ch'nge	Gross div p	Yld %	P/E
540	129	Abbey	130	185	..	..	..	..
356	198	Aberdeen Constr	170	220	..	12.1	8.2	15.5
449	252	Amec	273	280	●-6	16.8	6.1	10.4
88½	28	Anglo Utd	30	32	-6	1.4	4.5	57.4
152	88	Arncliffe	80	100	-5	3.8	4.2	21.1
462	194	Atwoods	200	207	-5	8.2	4.0	11.6
442½	218	BPB Ind (aa)	222	227	-2	9.6	4.3	9.7
310	97	Baggeridge Brick	200	210	-10	2.7	1.3	27.7
64	31	Bailey (Ben) Constr	37	42	●-1	1.6	4.0	8.3
252	134	Barratt Devs	158	162	-3	12.2	7.8	10.5
327	160	Bellway	175	180	●-4	11.0	6.2	8.8
385	76	Bellwinch	76	81	-1	4.4	5.8	7.1
530	134	Berkeley Gp	207	215	-2	3.4	1.6	12.2
148	65	Bett Bros	70	80	..	4.5	6.0	20.7
675	137	Blockleys	350	400	..	7.4	2.0	31.3
574	289	Blue Circle (aa)	283	297	-4	18.5	6.3	7.9
425	135	Breedon PLC	135	155	+2	8.2	5.7	..
253	86	Br Dredging	107	114	●-1	6.9	6.2	20.1
81	14½	Brown & Jackson	38	40	-1	..	..	..
148	79	Bryant	120	122	+7	3.8	3.1	14.3
38½	11	Burnett & Hallam	11½	12½	+½	..	..	1.3

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS, TV

DRAPERY, STORES

ELECTRICALS

FINANCE, LAND

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

FOODS

HOTELS, CATERERS

INDUSTRIALS A-D

E-K

L-R

S-Z

INSURANCE

Investment Trusts appear on Page 28

LEISURE

MINING

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

OILS, GAS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

SHIPPING

SHOES, LEATHER

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

● Ex dividend a Ex all b Forecast dividend e Interim payment passed f Price at suspension g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment k Pre-merger figures n Forecast earnings o Ex other r Ex rights s Ex scrip or share split t Tax-free .. No significant data.

FAMILY MONEY BRIEFING

FIMBRA fights off a threat

■ FIMBRA, the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association, has fought off an attempt to have it wound up for alleged non-payment of debts, *writes Tony Hetherington*. The action, the latest episode in a lengthy legal saga, was brought by a Florida businessman, Newman Johnston III, a business associate of the Edinburgh solicitor Walter L. Jacob.

Until last April, Mr Jacob operated a share-dealing business from his law office, trading mainly in the shares of Magnacard, a Florida solar energy company. FIMBRA ordered him to suspend trading when it found that he controlled more than 90 per cent of Magnacard's shares. Mr Jacob's company is no longer a FIMBRA member, and recently he was ejected from FIMBRA's annual meeting.

The flurry of legal activity includes an action brought by Mr Jacob against various FIMBRA officials and financial journalists, in which he claims damages of up to £25 million for defamation.

Mr Johnston's attempt to have FIMBRA wound up failed because he could not prove FIMBRA owed him a penny, but what has puzzled legal observers is that the action could never have succeeded in any event. FIMBRA is registered as a Scottish company, and any winding-up order would have to be sought in the Scottish courts. Mr Johnston's in presenting the petition was told that by court officials, but insisted on pressing on with the case. The solicitor was Mr Jacob himself, who as a Scottish lawyer would have appreciated the point.

Dismissing the application and awarding costs to FIMBRA, the judge said the petition was an attempt to embarrass FIMBRA while the Securities and Investments Board considered its application to be recognized as one of the new City watchdog bodies established under the Financial Services Act. FIMBRA officials believe Mr Jacob and his client may now attempt to re-start proceedings in a Scottish court.

■ The National & Provincial Building Society has launched NATPROGRESS, a two-year campaign involving internal restructuring and development in response to the continuing changes in personal finance. Customer care is a key element in the programme, which the society says will be backed by new standards of customer service. A newly styled Help Desk will be established to offer improved support to customers and branch staff.

■ Gartmore's acquistion of Oppenheimer Trust Management will be completed this month. The products of the two companies are being integrated into a single range of funds, offering investors a choice of risk profile. There will be 30 funds to choose from, provided that final approval is received from unit holders and the Department of Trade and Industry for the Gartmore High Income Fund to absorb the Oppenheimer High Income Fund. Oppenheimer unit holders wishing to makes switches to take in other Gartmore funds will enjoy a 5 per cent discount until December 31.

■ The *Which?* Money Group says investors need "solid" information — for example, about investment returns and charges, on which to base rational long-term investment decisions. In its submission to Peat Marwick McLintock for the Study of Life Assurance Charges and Expenses for the Securities and Investments Board, it says that if it is possible for information about with-profits policies to be disclosed, so that the rational investor can reach a decision, then this information should be made available. The group cites the expense of carrying on the business as one such piece of information.

■ Henderson Administration invoked the deferment provision on its Residential Property Fund this week. Henderson's Chris Burroughs says that for the past few months redemptions have exceeded purchases — as a result, liquidity is now down to zero and properties are being sold. Investors who instruct Henderson to sell their units are now being registered, but they will know neither how soon within the next 12 months the sale will be effected, nor at what price.

Mr Burroughs says a problem for the fund has been short-term investors. He maintains that high-quality residential property remains a good investment over the long term.

Target Group fears that Henderson's move will damage the confidence of investors in the residential property sector as a whole. In response, Target says that in the interest of its long-term investors it has asked its independent valuers to revalue its Residential Property Fund on a "forced sale" basis. This has resulted in an 18 per cent reduction of the unit price. Target adds that when confidence has returned, the fund will be revalued on an "offer" basis.

Your school, by computer

Crusader Insurance homed in on the private education market this week, with the launch of an independent schools information and finance package, *writes Amanda Pardoe*.

The aim of the service, says the general manager Brian Perkins, is to address the first two questions posed by parents — which school and how much will it cost?

The computer program certainly makes the task of choosing a school easier. It covers more than 2,000 independent schools in all, including preparatory and secondary schools for both day pupils and boarders.

Parents simply need to state their criteria and the program is designed to try to match it. The range of information available is comprehensive — schools can be identified by location, denomination, staffing levels, academic achievement, single-sex or co-educational policy, sporting and special interest facilities and, of course, cost. The database also includes details of schools that cater for children with remedial, behavioural or sensory problems.

The schools information program is not exactly new to the market and the statement by the managing director David Ellis is misleading to say the least: "What is believed to be the first computer-based private education information service is to be launched by Crusader."

The program is the brainchild of Pat Carter and Derek Miles, of Which School. This company has sold the program to Crusader, and it has been agreed that no other member of the Campaign for Independent Financial Advice (CAMIFA) will be able to purchase it. However, Mr Miles says Which School is still free to sell it to direct sales companies, as it has done already.

He confirmed that earlier this year Canada Life obtained the program, as reported in Family Money on May 30. Individuals can contact Crusader direct (0707 51122). The service is free, and there is no obligation to take out one of Canada Life's policies.

Interested parents cannot contact Crusader direct but must go through an intermediary. The computer program will be available free for brokers and intermediaries to use at its offices in more than 20 different locations throughout the country.

Apart from offering to help with school selection, Crusader is looking at the financial aspects too. Besides offering illustrations on the computer program of how to plan ahead for school fees, it has launched a loan scheme.

The loan package has been developed by Crusader in co-operation with Mortgage Express, a UDT Ltd (TSB Group) service. Under the Easiloan package the borrower takes out a new mortgage or remortgage together with an agreed additional capital sum. This becomes available six months after the mortgage has been entered into. The loan is secured with Crusader's Easiloan policy which allows for repayment over 10 and 25 years.

The maximum loan depends on the amount of equity in the property and the valuation. The minimum available under the scheme is £6,000, which can be drawn on as required, in lots of £2,000 or more, and a cheque book is provided. Up to three withdrawals a year are allowed. Interest is charged only when the drawings are made.

Brian Perkins, top, and David Ellis: men at the top

The rate is the normal Mortgage Express rate, now 10.2 per cent for a new mortgage and 10.3 per cent for a remortgage. There is an arrangement fee of £100 and on the first drawing, 1 per cent of the reserve amount is added to the loan.

The Easiloan is available to all home-owners and new house purchasers under the age of 55.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

	Nominal rate	Compounded return at tax rates 27%	45%	60%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS							
Ordinary Dep A/c[1]	2.50	2.52	1.90	1.38	1 min	0-7 day	—
Girobank	3.00	3.02	2.28	1.65	1 min	7 day	01-600 6020
Fixed Term Deposits:							
National Westminster	5.75	5.75	4.33	3.15	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-726 1000
" " "	5.50	5.50	4.14	3.01	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-726 1000
Midland	5.32	5.32	4.01	2.92	10,000-24,999	1 mth	01-260 8000
" " "	5.32	5.32	4.01	2.92	10,000-24,999	6 mth	01-260 8000
BUILDING SOCIETIES							
Ordinary A/c	4.00	4.04	3.04	2.21	1 min	—	—
Britannia[2]	6.15	6.15	4.63	3.37	250 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	7.30	7.30	5.50	4.00	500 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	7.55	7.55	5.69	4.14	5,000 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	7.80	7.80	5.88	4.27	10,000 min	—	—
Bristol & West[2]	8.10	8.10	6.10	4.44	25,000 min	—	—
Nationwide Non-Resid[2]	8.75	8.75	8.75	8.75	1 min	—	—
MONEY FUNDS							
Aitken Hume Monthly Inc	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	1,000 min	—	01-638 6070
Allied Arab HICA	6.58	6.79	5.12	3.72	3,000 min	—	01-629 6802
Bank Of Scotland	6.09	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,500 min	—	01-628 8060
Barclays High Rate Dep	6.13	6.27	4.72	3.44	1,000 min	—	01-626 1567
" " "	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min	—	01-626 1567
Britannia High Interest	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min	—	01-588 2777
Citibank Money Mkt Plus‡	5.50	5.64	4.25	3.09	2,000 min	—	01-741 4941
HFC Trust & Savings	7.50	7.64	5.76	4.19	5,000 min	—	01-236 8391
Henderson Cheque A/c	6.09	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,500 min	—	01-638 5757
L & G High Int Deposit	6.25	6.34	4.78	3.47	1,000 min	1 mth	01-388 3211
Lloyds Investment A/c‡[6]	6.40	6.40	4.82	3.51	5,000 min	3 mth	01-407 1000
Lloyds HICA‡	4.80	4.91	3.70	2.69	1,000 min	—	01-407 1000
M&G HICA	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min	—	01-626 4588
Midland HICA	6.00	6.20	4.67	3.40	2,000 min	—	0742 52800
" "	6.20	6.35	4.78	3.48	10,000 min	—	0742 52800
Nat West Special Reserve	6.13	6.26	4.72	3.43	2,000 min	—	01-726 1000
" " "	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	10,000 min	—	01-726 1000
Oppenheimer Money Mngmt	5.83	5.96	4.49	3.93	1,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
" " "	5.93	6.06	4.57	3.32	10,000 min	1 mth	01-236 9362
Phillips & Drew HICA	6.40	6.55	4.93	3.59	2,500 min	—	01-628 9771
Provincial Trust Chq A/c	6.77	6.99	5.27	3.83	1,000 min	—	061-9289011
Royal Bk Of Scot Prem A/c	6.20	6.35	4.78	3.48	2,500 min	—	031-5570201
S & P Classic	6.00	6.18	4.66	3.39	500 min	—	0708 766966
Schroder Wagg	5.83	5.99	4.51	3.28	2,500 min	—	0705 827733
Tyndall Call	6.18	6.30	4.75	3.45	2,500 min	—	0272 732241
Tyndall 7-day	6.13	6.27	4.72	3.44	2,500 min	—	0272 732241
UDT 7-day	6.25	6.40	4.82	3.51	5,000 min	7 day	01-626 4861
Western Trust	6.07	6.24	4.70	3.42	2,500 min	1 mth	0752 261161
NATIONAL SAVINGS							
Ordinary A/c[3]	6.00	6.17	4.65	3.38	1-10,000	8 day	041-6494555
Investment A/c*	10.00	7.30	5.50	4.00	5-100,000	1 mth	041-6494555
Income Bond*	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	2,000-100,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*	10.50	7.67	5.78	4.20	100-100,000	3 mth	041-6494555
33rd Issue Cert[4]†	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	25-1,000	8 day	091-3864900
Yearly Plan†	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00	20-200/mth	14 day	091-3864900
General Extension Rate†	6.51	6.51	6.51	6.51			
Retail Price Index: Oct	102.9	102.9	102.9	102.9			
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS							
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	1,000 min	1 yr	0992 30488
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.61	5.43	1,000 min	2 yrs	0992 30488
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.65	5.49	1,000 min	3 yrs	0992 30488
FPS (Management) Ltd	8.00	8.00	6.68	5.55	1,000 min	4 yrs	0992 30488
Blackhorse Life[5]	8.00	8.00	6.56	5.36	2,000 min	5 yrs	0634 405161
LOCAL AUTHORITY TOWN HALL BONDS							
Northampton	6.58	6.58	4.96	3.61	500 min	1 yr	01-407 2767
Kirklees	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	2 yrs	01-407 2767
Kirklees	6.75	6.75	5.09	3.70	500 min	3 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	4 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	5 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	6 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	7 yrs	01-407 2767
Swansea	6.77	6.77	5.10	3.71	500 min	8 yrs	01-407 2767
Taff Ely	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	9 yrs	01-407 2767
Taff Ely	6.48	6.48	4.88	3.55	1,000 min	10 yrs	01-407 2767
FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSITS							
Sterling	8.23	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
US Dollar	6.27	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
Yen	3.32	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
D Mark	2.51	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
French Franc	7.50	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741
Swiss Franc	2.35	—	—	—	—	7 day	0481 26741

*Interest taxable, paid gross † Tax free ‡ Higher returns for larger balances [1] All major banks- Nat West 2.83%, Barclays 3.00% [2] Societies chosen based on high street presence, higher rates can sometimes be obtained from smaller soci - contact Chase de Vere Moneyline 01-404 5766 [3] 3 per cent for balances below £500, first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less [4] Additional holdings up to £5,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of existing matured certificates [5] Gemini Bond [6] Charge for instant access Research: Deborah Benn

KEY RATES

Retail Prices Index (Oct '86 to Oct '87)
+4.5

Mortgage rate*
10.0%-10.5%

Bank base rate
8.50%

Bank prime overdraft rate*
13%-18% APR

Personal loan rate*
19.7% APR

Credit card rate*
23.1% APR

Hire purchase rate*[1]
28% APR

Bank deposit account
2.50-3.00%

Building society ordinary account
4%

High-interest cheque account*
6.00%

Holiday exchange rates*

Spanish peseta	198.50
French franc	10.02
Greek drachma	250
Italian lira	2175

* Typical rates
[1] £1,000 over 12 months
APR = annual percentage rate

FUND OFFERS

Fidelity	pages 23, 29 and 30
Robert Fleming	page 24
Dumenil	page 25
Prolific	page 30
Mercury Rowen Mullen	page 32
Equitable	page 33

BASE LENDING RATES

ABN	8.50%
Adam & Company	9.00%
BCCI	9.00%
Consolidated Crds	9.00%
Co-operative Bank	9.00%
C. Hoare & Co	8.50%
Hong Kong & Shanghai	8.50%
Lloyds Bank	8.50%
Nat Westminster	8.50%
Royal Bank of Scotland	8.50%
TSB	9.00%
Citibank NA	8.50%

UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Chng	Yld
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 401, St John Street, London EC1V 4QE 01-837 6494 Life Funds				
Squirrel	11.43	12.04	+0.01	..
Bear	11.11	11.61	-0.21	..
Owl	12.84	13.31	-0.34	..
Bull	12.30	12.95	-0.05	..
Stag	12.39	13.05	-0.12	..
Gilt Edged	11.72		-0.05	..
Deposit	10.53		..	..
Pensions				
Squirrel	12.72	13.39	+0.02	..
Bear	12.84	13.52	-0.20	..
Owl	15.70	16.53	-0.42	..
Bull	14.56	15.33	-0.32	..
Stag	14.67	15.45	-0.45	..
Gilt Edged	12.42		-0.04	..
Deposit	11.26		+0.02	..
Exempt App Mixed	158.2	161.4	-3.02	..
ABBEY LIFE 80, Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 0202 292373				
Property Fund Inc	215.2	226.6	..	..
Do Accum	311.9	328.4	+0.1	..
Equity Fund Income	100.0	105.3	-3.6	..
Do Accum	110.7	116.6	-3.9	..
Selective Fund	254.2	267.6	-2.3	..
Money Fund	234.6	247.0	+0.2	..
Prop Fd Ser 4	244.9	257.8	+0.5	..
Equity Ser 4	116.2	122.4	-3.4	..
Man Ser 4	330.4	347.8	-5.9	..
Conv Ser 4	210.1	221.2	+0.2	..
Money Ser 4	209.9	221.0	+0.3	..
Fixed Int Fd Ser 4	206.9	217.9	+0.4	..
American Ser 4	214.4	225.7	-7.1	..
High Inc Ser 4	328.8	346.2	-6.2	..
Indexed Inv Ser 4	120.1	126.6	+2.8	..
Japan Ser 4	228.9	241.0	-4.4	..
ALBANY LIFE 3, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	725.3	763.4	-38.5	..
European Fd Accum	176.3	185.5	-4.9	..
Fixed Int Acc	331.0	348.4	-2.6	..
Gtd Money Fd Acc	214.7	226.0	+0.2	..
Intl Man Fd Acc	311.0	327.3	-5.4	..
Int Fxd Int Fd Acc	195.6	205.9	-0.1	..
Japan Fund	255.7	269.1	-2.2	..
Nth American Fd Acc	121.9	128.3	-6.8	..
Prop Fd Acc	235.7	248.1	+0.1	..
Multiple Inv Acc	526.6	554.3	-12.9	..
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Allied Dunbar Assurance Swindon SN1 1EL 0793-28291				
Fixed Int Dep Accum	237.9	250.5	+0.2	..
Equity Accum	632.9	666.3	-17.6	..
Property Accum	365.9	385.2	+0.2	..
Far East Accum	147.4	155.2	-3.2	..
Managed Capital	303.6	319.6	-6.2	..
Do Accum	509.2	536.0	-10.3	..
Overseas Accum	411.9	433.6	-8.5	..
Gilt Edged Accum	298.0	313.7	+0.1	..
Amer Equity Accum	310.8	327.2	-12.3	..
Amer Man Accum	148.5	156.4	-5.3	..
Amer Prop Accum	118.2	124.5	-0.3	..
BALTIC ASSURANCE 25-26 Albemarle Street, London W1X 4AD 01-493 8899				
Managed Growth	260.4	274.2	+4.74	..
Managed Income	121.6	128.0	+2.97	..
International	166.1	174.8	-3.85	..
High Income	178.9	188.3	-0.90	..
Income & Growth	237.5	250.0	+2.7	..
Basic Resource	98.27	103.4	-2.73	..
American	144.3	153.0	-1.07	..
Japan & General	447.2	470.7	+11.00	..
Special Situations	204.9	215.7	+4.06	..
BARCLAYS LIFE 252, Romford Rd, London E7 9JB 01-534 5544				
Equity Accum	454.0	477.9	-13.2	
Do Initial	383.3	403.5	-12.3	..
Gilt Edged Accum	228.2	240.3	+0.8	..
Do Initial	194.4	204.7	+0.1	..
International Accum	232.4	244.7	-7.2	..
Do Initial	196.7	207.1	-6.7	..
Managed Accum	307.7	323.9	-5.9	..
Do Initial	260.8	274.6	-5.8	..
Money Accum	186.2	196.0	..	..
Do Initial	153.2	161.3	..	..
Property Accum	222.9	234.7	..	..
Do Initial	187.3	197.2	..	..
America Accum	131.3	138.3	-8.0	..
Do Initial	113.0	119.0	-7.3	..
Australia Accum	127.5	134.3	+2.4	..
Do Initial	110.0	115.8	+1.7	..
Financial Accum	204.6	215.4	-8.0	..
Do Initial	176.1	185.4	-7.5	..
500 Accum	245.8	258.8	-7.6	..
Do Initial	208.6	219.6	-7.2	..
Japan &Gen Acc 2	334.9	352.6	-7.1	.
Do Initial 2	282.6	297.5	-6.7	.
Income Accum	259.2	272.9	-8.0	
Do Initial	222.2	233.9	-6.8	.
Leisure Accum	156.9	165.2	-6.6	.
Special Sits Accum	125.0	131.6	-7.4	..
Univ Tech Accum	88.4	93.1	-3.9	..
Do Initial	77.9	82.1	-3.7	
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House Chatham 8 Kent ME4 4JF 0634 405161				
The Managed Fund	390.23		-15.49	
Income Fund	385.0	405.3	-8.60	..
Extra Income Fund	355.7	374.4	-10.52	..
Worldwide Grwth Fd	282.6	297.4	-4.92	..
Balanced Fund	312.6	329.0	-15.78	.
Smlr Co's & Rc Fd	487.4	513.1	-8.24	..
Int Technology Fund	285.1	300.1	-3.17	..
N Amer & Gen Fund	196.2	206.5	-0.41	..
Energy Int Fund	110.2	116.0	-1.0	.
Pacific Basin Fund	231.3	243.5	-1.57	..
German Growth Fd	92.21	97.07	+2.16	..
Japan Growth Fd	139.7	147.1	-0.33	..
The UK Gilt Fd	113.3	119.2	-3.74	.
Contl Euro Gilt	77.33	81.40	-0.03	.
Property Fund	203.9	214.7	+0.35	..
Fixed Interest Fund	207.9	218.9	+0.34	
Cash Fund	181.0	190.5	+0.16	..
Managed Inv Fund	248.4	261.5	-10.03	
CANADA LIFE 2-6, High St, Potters Bar, Herts P Bar 51122				
Equity Growth	149.9		..	..
Managed	175.2	184.5	-3.4	..
Property	134.7	141.8	-1.4	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	148.3	156.2	-1.2	..
Index-Linked	120.2	126.6	+1.6	..
Equity	190.8	200.9	-3.7	..
Cash	146.0	153.7	+0.2	..
Midland Bk UT	189.4	199.4	-8.0	..
Midland Bk Int	188.7	198.7	-6.6	..
CANNON ASSURANCE 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 01-902 8876				
Equity Units	£91.95		-2.45	..
Property Units	£25.96		+1.02	..
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£33.35	35.29	-0.58	..
2nd Equity Accum	320.3	338.9	-10.5	..
2nd High Inc/Accum	303.2	320.8	-5.6	..
2nd Property Accum	244.9	259.2	+9.4	..
2nd Managed 2 Acc	113.3	119.9	+1.5	..
2nd Managed Acc	239.8	253.8	-3.9	..
2nd Managed 4 Acc	96.8	102.4	-2.8	..
2nd Deposit Accum	185.4	196.2	+0.3	..
2nd Gilt Accum	198.9	210.5	+0.4	..
2nd Amer Accum	185.5	196.3	-8.3	..
2nd Intl Money Ac	186.3	197.1	-0.3	..
2nd Index Accum	113.8	120.4	+1.6	..
2nd Far East Accum	190.1	201.2	-4.4	..
2nd Global Accum	68.9	72.9	-3.8	..
2nd Euro Accum	72.5	76.7	-3.8	..
2nd Japan Accum	125.2	132.5	-0.8	..
2nd Heritage Acc	103.1	109.1	-0.1	..
2nd Intl Curr Bond	91.4	96.7	..	..
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500, Avebury Blvd, Cntl Milton Keynes MK9 2LA 0908-606101				
Property Fund	138.2	145.5	+2.9	..
Money Fund	241.5	254.3	+0.4	..
Managed Fund	400.4	421.5	-6.2	..
Equity Fund	265.3	279.3	-6.5	..
Fixed Interest Fund	161.7	170.3	+0.7	..
Far East Fund	214.1	225.4	-12.9	..
Nth Amer Fund	128.8	135.6	-1.6	..
Nat Resources Fund	153.3	161.4	-5.0	..
Alexandra Fund	81.8	86.2	..	..
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0272 290566 Assurance Funds				
Mixed	135.4	142.6	-3.3	..
Equity	165.3	174.0	-4.8	..
Property	138.9	146.3	+0.8	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	124.6	131.2	-0.5	..
Indexed Secs	101.4	106.8	+2.4	..
Cash	115.5	121.6	+0.2	..
Nth American	82.7	87.1	-5.2	..
Far East	124.7	131.3	-2.8	..
International	103.8	109.3	-3.4	..
Special Sits	144.7	152.4	-4.8	..
Intl Income	144.5	152.2	-3.2	..
European	127.1	133.8	-3.7	.
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	132.0	139.0	-2.8	.
Equity	145.7	153.4	-3.2	..
Property	131.5	138.5	+1.5	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	137.7	145.0	+0.1	..
Index Linked	106.7	112.4	+2.4	..
Cash	129.2	136.0	+0.1	..
Nth American	88.5	89.2	-7.4	..
Far East Acc	156.6	164.9	-4.0	..
International Acc	116.3	122.5	-4.3	..
Special Sits	193.1	203.3	-7.4	..
European Flex	151.3	159.3	-6.3	..
Cash	115.5	121.6	+0.2	..
Nth American	82.7	87.1	-5.2	..
Far East	124.7	131.3	-2.8	..
International	103.8	109.3	-3.4	..
Special Sits	144.7	152.4	-4.8	..
Intl Income	144.5	152.2	-3.2	..
American Inc	92.2	97.1	-2.2	..
European	127.1	133.8	-3.7	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL 24 Ludgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD 01-248 9853				
CML U Ass:Key	155.66		..	..
CML U Ass:Pacemkr	189.44		..	..
CML U Ass:Cash	134.1	141.2	+0.30	..
CML U Ass:Equity	278.9	293.6	-0.83	..
CML U Ass:FI	203.3	214.0	+0.46	..
CML U Ass:Mngd	218.3	229.7	..	..
CML U Ass:Prop	264.7	278.6	+2.85	..
CML(Pen):Cash Cap	135.0	142.1	..	..
CML(Pen):Cash Inv	154.5	162.7	..	..
CML(Pen):Eqty Cap	549.2	578.2	..	..
CML(Pen):Eqty Inv	628.6	661.7	..	..
CML(Pen):Fixd Cap	228.2	240.2	..	..
CML(Pen):Fixd Inv	261.2	275.0	..	..
CML(Pen):Indx Cap	134.6	141.7	..	..
CML(Pen):Indx Inv	154.0	162.1	..	..
CML(Pen):Man Cap	302.3	318.2	..	..
CML(Pen):Man Inv	346.0	364.2	..	..
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 01-283 7500				
Var Ann Accum (5)	263.87		-2.77	
Var Ann (5)	57.81		-0.42	..
Prime- Managed	230.7	242.9	-6.7	..
Prime- UK Equity	264.7	278.7	-11.4	..
Prime- Int Equity	172.8	181.9	-8.4	
Prime- Property	136.5	143.7	+0.2	
Prime- Fixed Interest	154.6	162.8	-0.8	
Prime- Index-Linked	104.8	110.4	+0.6	
Prime- Cash	128.4	135.3	..	
CONFEDERATION LIFE 50 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1HE 01-242 0282				
Managed Fund	602.8	634.5	-17.5	
Equity Fund	822.1	865.3	-31.0	.
PIP Fund	£22.799		-0.59	..
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 04862 5033				
Life Managed Acc	299.3	315.0	-14.6	..
Life Fixed Int Accum	243.1	255.9	-0.8	..
Life Equity Accum	360.4	379.3	-26.8	..
Life Money Accum	189.7	199.5	-0.1	.
Life Inv Trust Accum	368.4	387.7	-18.5	..
Life Intl Accum	268.0	282.1	-14.7	..
Life High Inc Accum	387.6	410.1	-16.2	.
Life Property Accum	192.2	202.3	..	..
Crown Bnt Inv A	641.4	771.6	..	..
Crown Equity	613.0	645.2	..	..
DBS Managed	202.2	212.8	-7.5	
Growth Accum	218.5	230.0	..	.
CRUSADER INSURANCE Reigate Surrey RH2 8BL 07372 42424				
Measured perf	83.7	88.6	-2.4	..
Performance Plus	79.1	83.7	-2.3	..
With Profit Perf	104.9	111.9	..	..

[illegible]

The prices in this section refer to Thursday's trading.

هكذا في الأصل

كذا في الاصل

THIS WEEK

The problem with PEPs 1

Insurance to cover driving bans 2

Weak dollar causes property boom 2

Monthly unit trust survey 3

Young investors could get a windfall 3

Letting your property when you go abroad 4

Consumer protection 4

The perils of Inheritance Tax 5

Financial services 5

Putting money into cars 6

Safety seal on timeshare businesses. 6

Birthday blues for unpopular PEPs

Personal equity plans have failed to take the investing public by storm in the first year. AMANDA PARDOE looks at the effect the lacklustre reponse may have on the lifespan of the PEP

Personal Equity Plans have been on the market for almost a year. Come the first anniversary, however, there will be little to celebrate unless Nigel Lawson is intending to play Father Christmas to the plan managers.

The aim of PEPS, as conceived by the Chancellor in his 1986 Budget, was to provide a simple, tax-efficient vehicle through which individuals could invest modest sums in equities – in short, a method of fulfilling the Government's longstanding desire to increase share ownership.

However, although Mr Lawson's intentions have been widely applauded, the limitations of the PEP framework have been heavily criticized, and thoroughout the year plan managers and financial advisers have lobbied aggressively for improvements.

To date, there has been only one significant change. In the autumn, it was announced that with effect from January 1 plan managers would be required to send company reports and accounts only to investors who opted to receive them. Discretionary plan managers will, however, have to send a six-monthly statement of their investment strategy to every plan-holder.

Announcing this and various minor amendments, Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said in October: "Personal Equity Plans have made an encouraging start. Since the beginning of the year almost 200,000 plans have been taken out – almost 1,000 plans per day. The package of changes announced today does not alter the fundamental structure of the scheme, which we are confident will make a growing contribution to widening and deepening share ownership."

"It is a major disappointment"

Mr Lamont's optimism, albeit detectably diluted by the word "encouraging", is not widely shared.

Michael Chadwick, joint managing director of Chase de Vere, the London-based financial advisers and publishers of *PEPGUIDE*, says: "Our biggest worry is that the product just has not proved successful. It is a major disappointment. PEPs have not appealed to a wider audience.

"Most plan-holders are people with capital who have invested a lump sum.

"What is needed is a nice, simple product that appeals to a wide audience, and is attractive to the plan managers. Although until recently quite a few investors will have made a good return, I doubt any plan managers have made a profit this year."

In the summer Chase de Vere drew up prosposals for changes to the PEP framework and put them to the Chancellor. Mr Chadwick says these recommendations remain the same, and last week he wrote to the Chancellor again repeating the need to improve PEPs "to generate wider appeal".

To see the relevance of the proposals it is first worth highlighting the current PEP framework. Anyone aged 18 or over can take out a plan. The maximum investment is £2,400 a year, or £200 a month. As long as you keep your plan for a full calendar year, which means a minimum of between 12 months and two years, no Capital Gains Tax is payable on any profits and no income tax on the dividends, which can be reinvested.

Basic investment is ordinary shares

The underlying investment of a PEP must be ordinary shares in UK companies listed on either the Stock Exchange or the Unlisted Securities Market. Up to 25 per cent of the total can be invested in unit trusts or investment trusts. A PEP must be administered and supervised by a registered scheme manager.

Chase de Vere recommends that the maximum total investment should be increased to £4,800; investment in unit trusts and investment trusts should be allowed to be as high as 30 per cent; and a qualifying five-year regular savings plan with tax relief should be linked to PEPs.

This last proposal would make PEPs attractive to small investors and would also appeal to the plan managers, who would know that they had a commitment of regular savings and that their charges could be spread out accordingly.

TSB Trust Company yesterday called on the Government to make PEPs more attractive to small investors, saying: "PEPs are a valuable tool for investors, but the regulations are inflexible and confusing."

The views of Chase de Vere and TSB are largely echoed by the key players. Although there are almost 190 registered PEP plan managers, there are only around 80 management groups offering plans to the public, and of these, a handful dominate the market. Lloyds Bank accounts for about a fifth of the market, with 44,000 plan-holders. Fidelity and Save & Prosper each have roughly 26,000.

At Save & Prosper, Ian Lindsey says the relaxation on the distribution of company reports and accounts has been very beneficial for its managed portfolio. Bearing in mind the high cost of sending out numerous reports and accounts, he says: "The Chancellor has made it easier for us to choose shares in companies, regardless of whether they will send out the report for free."

Nevertheless, he would still like to see improvements in the investment limit and tax concessions.

He would also like the cash holding restrictions to be lifted. He describes this as "a very real drawback. He says: "In the last three or four weeks we might have wanted to go completely into cash."

Derek Booker, manager of the Lloyds Bank PEP Centre, says a good proportion of its clients are existing investors and about 50 per cent go for the maximum. He too welcomes the relaxation on the distribution of company reports and accounts and would like to see both the tax benefits and the investment limits on PEPs improved.

"Aggressive plan ready for 1988"

He says that, as expected, PEPs have not been profitable for Lloyds this year, and believes it will be another couple of years before the schemes become acceptably profitable.

He says: "We want to stay the market leaders. We've got quite an aggressive marketing plan mapped out for 1988. If you don't get the volume, PEPs won't be profitable. Even if the total number of plans rises from around 200,000 to 300,000, I don't think that will be enough to sustain all the registered plan managers. I wouldn't be surprised to see a number withdrawing schemes".

Norman Lamont: "encouraged"

Robin Bloor, senior manager of Chase de Vere, says interest in PEPs has picked up in recent weeks as people realize there is little time left to utilize their 1987 allowances. The last-minute surge could, however, have been jeopardized if there had been a widespread postal strike. An announcement that plan managers are withrawing their schemes or reconsidering their attitude to PEPs could be of more lasting significance.

Windsor Investment Managers announced this week that it will not be renewing its scheme next year. David Lis, the managing director, says the company has been a minor player, offering only a unit trust scheme: "We'll not renew for 1988 because there's not the interest out there. Unless the Chancellor does something in the next Budget it's just not worth it."

Windsor's withdrawal is unlikely seriously to affect the continued existence of PEPs. However, an announcement by Fidelity next week may do just that.

An anniversary without a celebration for Nigel Lawson

Fidelity was first to go into the market, but the group has clearly not been happy with the framework. At Fidelity, Alan Ainsworth says: "Our PEP investors are very much traditional existing unit trust and equity investors. By and large, PEPs have not been attracting new investors."

"There is no question of withdrawing"

He says the group has lobbied hard for improvements but adds: "In its present form it's unlikely that PEPs are going to expand significantly. Our position has to be that the future of PEPs depends on how attractive the Government makes them."

Mr Ainsworth says: "There is no question of us withdrawing from PEPs. It would be premature at present." But he qualifies this by saying: "We are looking fairly carefully at our 1988 product. I'm sure the Government can't be blind. I believe something should emerge from our lobbying, so it may be wise to leave announcing the 1988 plan at the beginning of the year."

Assuming that Fidelity confirms next week that it will not introduce a 1988 plan until the framework has been improved, other plan managers will doubtless follow suit. If the Chancellor responds, PEPs could really take off.

Mr Chadwick believes that "with a few improvements, the PEP could provide a phenomenal investment vehicle, generating up to £50 billion a year".

But if Mr Lawson does not respond, it could herald the demise of PEPs.

Alan Ainsworth: lobbied

Ian Lindsey: "improvements"

Michael Chadwick: "big worry"

Retirement with a little advice

Retirement '87 is a new exhibition now being held at the Barbican Centre in London. Exhibitors will provide information on all aspects of retirement from financial planning to housing, health and moving abroad. There is also a free seminar programme. The exhibition is open from 10am until 7pm today and from 11am to 6pm tomorrow. The entry fee is £4.

Midland account charges raised

Midland Bank is increasing its charges to personal current account customers on Monday. Autobank withdrawals and direct debits are going up by 2p to 27p each, and cheques and standing orders will go up by 3p to 30p. The quarterly maintenance charge is also being increased, from £2.50 to £3. The new charges will be applied to customers' accounts in March next year. However, free banking will still be available to those customers who keep their current accounts in credit.

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BAILEY / SHATKIN

NEW FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL BOND TRUST

FIXED OFFER PRICE MUST CLOSE SUNDAY!

Now, no portfolio is complete without bonds.

Fidelity International Bond Trust

The recent falls in world equity markets have really shown the importance of a balanced portfolio which includes some lower risk securities.

Equities have, in the long-term, generally produced higher returns. But there are periods when fixed interest securities – i.e. bonds – can be used successfully to complement your equity portfolio and enhance those returns.

We believe such a time has come and so, on 28th November, we launched the new Fidelity International Bond Trust. The aim of the Trust is to provide investors with a high level of income, plus long-term capital growth from an *international portfolio of Government* bonds and other quality fixed interest securities.

The missing element.

In the U.S.A., Japan and Europe, investors have always considered bonds to be an integral part of a balanced portfolio. But U.K. investors have tended to ignore the benefits of bonds – to their cost.

Remember, bonds *not only offer* a high level of income (7%* in the case of Fidelity International Bond Trust) but also real prospects of capital growth if interest rates continue their downward trend. With an *international* portfolio of bonds, currency gains may also be achieved.

Since equity markets fell seven weeks ago, professional investors around the world have been increasing their exposure to bonds. We expect this to continue over the coming months as more investors recognise the advantages of taking a more balanced approach to their investments.

Fixed offer price extended until 9 p.m. tomorrow!

To allow the Manager of the Trust to capitalise fully on current bond market opportunities, the 25p fixed offer price was limited to one week and closed on Friday, 4th December. However, this offer period has been specially extended over this weekend *for telephone deals only*.

Buy by 'phone today.

If your portfolio doesn't include bonds, don't delay. Now's the time to act to make your investments work harder.

With the threat of a postal strike, 'phone your professional adviser or call us today, free of charge, any time from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Remember, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up.

*Estimated starting gross yield at the launch offer price of 25p per unit.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL INVESTORS
Please note that if you purchase units by telephone, you should be aware that the deal made will be legally binding and will require immediate settlement. A contract note for your application will normally be sent within 5 working days. Unit certificates will normally be sent within 15 working days of receipt of settlement. The estimated starting gross yield for Fidelity International Bond Trust is 7.0% at the fixed offer price of 25.0p per unit until 4th December 1987. Thereafter units may be bought at the current daily offer price. Units may be sold on any day at the bid price ruling. You will receive a cheque within 7 working days of our receiving your renounced certificate. The Trust will pay distributions (accompanied by a tax voucher) on 31 May (xd 21 Apr), 31 Aug (xd 21 Jul), 30 Nov (xd 21 Oct) and 28/29 Feb (xd 21 Jan) each year. An initial charge of 5.25% is included in the offer price of units out of which the Managers may pay remuneration to qualified intermediaries. Rates are available upon request. The Trust pays an annual charge to the Managers out of income (or capital if there is insufficient income) of 1% plus VAT of the value of the Fund. The Managers have the right to change this fee to a maximum of 2% on giving not less than 3 months notice to unit holders. The Trust Deed contains power for the Managers and Trustee, by supplemental Deed without sanction of a meeting of unit holders, to take power to use currency futures and forward currency contracts as hedging techniques, should these be permitted by the Department of Trade and Industry, to make changes to permit purchases or sales from or to persons connected with the Managers or the Trustee and to make changes in the future in line with the then current requirements for authorised unit trusts. Check your investment prices and yields daily in the Financial Times, Daily Telegraph, Oracle page 574 and on Prestel* 481506. Trustee: Clydesdale Bank PLC. Managers: Fidelity Investment Services Limited. Registered Office: River Walk, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DY. Registered Company Number: 2016555. The Trust is a wider range investment as defined by the Trustee Investment Act 1961 and is authorised by the Department of Trade and Industry. Member of the Unit Trust Association. Offer not open to United States citizens, residents of the United States or the Republic of Ireland.

Callfree Fidelity 0800 414161 OPEN 7 DAYS 9AM-9PM

To: Fidelity Investment Services Ltd., P.O. Box 80, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DW.
I wish to invest £ in Fidelity International Bond Trust at the offer price ruling on receipt of my application. I enclose my cheque made payable to Fidelity Investment Services Limited.
Minimum investment £1,000. Units are available at the fixed offer price of 25p per unit on 5th and 6th December, for telephone deals only. From 7th December, units may be bought at the offer price ruling on receipt of your application.
For automatic reinvestment of income please tick box. ☐

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Just consider, £50 a month invested in Fidelity Special Situations Trust over the past 5 years would now be worth £6,288* even after recent falls. You can invest any amount to suit you from as little as £30 a month.

With the threat of a postal strike, why not 'phone us today, free of charge, for more information on our monthly investment plan and your free copy of Fidelity Investment Focus. We're open 7 days a week, 9a.m. to 9p.m. Alternatively, contact your professional adviser. Of course, the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. But by spreading your payments, you can also spread the risk.

*Source: OPAL Statistics 1.12.82 to 1.12.87.

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To: Fidelity Investment Services Limited, PO Box 80, Tonbridge, Kent TN9 1DW. Please send me details of Fidelity's Capital Builder and my free copy of Fidelity Investment Focus.

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Fidelity
MAKING MONEY MAKE MONEY

Drivers who cover their drinking

INSURANCE

ANTHONY CRAGGS looks at insurance cover to keep you on the road

People convicted of drink driving could face insurance premiums as high as £2,500 when they get their licences back. The prediction was made on Monday by Peter Bottomley, the Transport Minister.

It is vital for most professionals and business people to stay mobile. Yet 146,000 motorists lost their licences last year. Many were key personnel and, as a result, also lost their jobs. Others found it much more difficult to maintain their former livelihoods.

However, drinking drivers do have the opportunity to take out insurance cover to protect themselves. Three companies offer cover for drink-driving offences as well as for other convictions.

You see the significance when you realize that under the penalty points system just two offences can now mean 12 points and automatic disqualification, and that a conviction after a breath test results in a *minimum* of one year off the road.

The three companies offering this insurance provide benefits to pay for either a driver or the extra costs you would incur in making alternative transport arrangements, and for the hire charges of a replacement vehicle.

Chauffeurplan (Westland House, 17c Curzon Street, London W1Y 8AQ), now in its 17th year, is the largest scheme of this kind underwritten by an insurer authorized in the UK. Its full cover is for over-25s, provided the licence has no more than seven penalty points. If you have more than this number of points, cover is restricted to drink-driving, injury and loss of use benefits.

Chauffeurguard (76 Town Street, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 4AP) is available to anyone over 21 with a valid UK licence which has not been suspended in the past three years. If you have six penalty points currently or pending, cover is similarly restricted. Female policyholders have a 25 per cent premium discount.

St Christopher Motorists' Security Association (64 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1DE) offers "Driverplan" to those over 25 with restricted cover if you have six penalty points.

Group discounts are available from all three companies. Chauffeurguard offers a 10 per cent reduction for just three people, rising to 12.5 per cent for 11-24 people, 15 per cent for 25-49, 17.5 per cent for 50-99, and 20 per cent for more than 100. Obviously, the discounts can make these schemes attractive to companies with many sales executives on the road.

Self-employed people, in addition to companies and small businesses, can offset the insurance premiums against tax under certain circumstances.

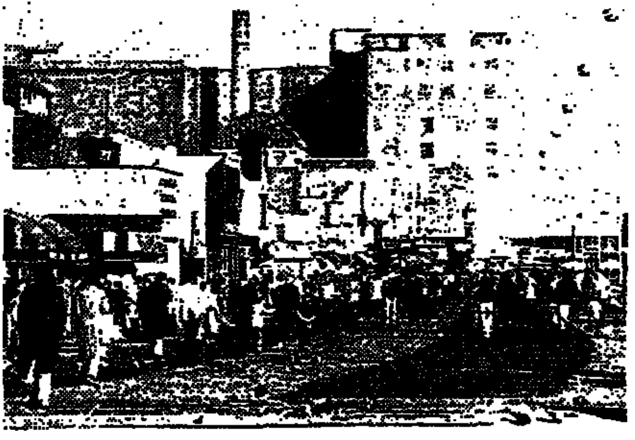
These policies have several useful extra features.

Legal costs up to £100 incurred in defending a charge that could directly result in disqualification are met by Chauffeurplan. An additional sum equal to your total maximum cover is offered by Chauffeurguard for legal expenses, including defence witness costs where a conviction could lead to disqualification.

It is a controversial form of insurance but with cover costing as little as £1.23 a week for staying on the road, it may well be one of the best purchases ahead of the party season.

WHAT IT COSTS

Company	Average weekly benefit (£)	Maximum annual benefit (£)	Annual subscription (£)
Chauffeurguard	60	3,000	48
Chauffeurplan	80	4,150	60
St Christopher	86	4,500	64
Chauffeurguard	100	5,000	68
St Christopher	122	5,330	75
Chauffeurplan	110	5,722	80
Chauffeurplan	140	7,280	100
Chauffeurguard	150	7,500	108
St Christopher	185	9,650	175
Chauffeurplan	200	10,400	190
Chauffeurguard	200	10,000	168



Where the gamblers pay for the housing: Atlantic City

How the weak dollar will help the man of property

A weak dollar is bad for the stock market but it favours investors willing to put money into American property. Even before the crash there was talk that a New York flat might be a good investment. Black Monday may have boosted that prospect.

Graham Bond, a director of the New York property firm Richard Ellis, says: "People are now more reluctant to buy houses or apartments. They would prefer to rent in the more uncertain economic situation. So prices for buying property are quite attractive."

Away from New York and around Atlantic City, property development is booming. Ten years ago Atlantic City was dying. Then casino gambling was introduced. Today the city and its surrounding area in southern New Jersey are experiencing a remarkable boom. The city attracts more visitors than Disneyland.

The developers are bullish because the casinos are required to invest 1.25 per cent of their gross gaming revenue to develop Atlantic City and the surrounding areas. In the next 25 years this will mean $1.4 billion for houses.

Already most of the 40,000 jobs created by gambling have meant developments such as Hamilton township, a few miles out, which boasts America's biggest department stores. Larry Silk, an Atlantic City property agent, says that at Hamilton one-bedroom or two-bedroom units can easily be bought for between $55,000 and $85,000. These could command a monthly rent of between $500 and $700.

Mr Silk is confident that even land buying could pay off. Two years ago an acre around the Hamilton shopping mall sold for between $45,000 and $50,000. Now it is selling at $100,000.

Many of these deals can be arranged on what is known as a purchase money mortgage. The property's existing owner acts as banker. He sells through a mortgage, and retains a first right to the property. The purchaser generally has to make a 20 per cent down payment and pay the rest over a period. Recently Mr Silk's father and partner, Sam Silk, did a deal where a drinks store worth $450,000 was sold for a down payment of $65,000 on a purchase mortgage of 9 per cent over 15 years.

Sam Silk himself lives in the Cherry Hill suburb of Philadelphia, and the 50-mile belt between his home and his Atlantic City office is experiencing a property boom.

In Cherry Hill, a four-bedroom ranch that could have been priced at $80,000 five years ago is now worth nearly $250,000. Even gazumping seems to be here. Recently a split-level two-bedroom home was fought over by five purchasers. It went for $135,000 — $3,000 more than the asking price.

The next property development will be in the heart of Atlantic City itself. There, Donald Trump is building Taj Mahal, described as the greatest casino the world has ever seen. Mr Trump, who already owns three casinos, is confident. In the past Atlantic City has sometimes wrong-footed property investors. In the late 1970s the West Germans came to buy property on the back of a strong mark thinking it would go up even further. Instead they found interest rates rising and the dollar strengthening.

This time the developers are certain the process will not be repeated. Mr Trump believes that once casino money redevelops the derelict land Atlantic City will become a beautiful seaside town.

After Black Monday, Mr Trump boasted about his investment knowledge, having got out of the market in time. Then he advised everyone to forget Wall Street and go to Atlantic City.

Mihir Bose

It is a good time to start a unit trust savings plan

The Independent 5/11/87

The investor with a monthly savings plan can sit out a fluctuation in the market, knowing that when it falls, his monthly contribution buys more units. In

The Financial Times 31/10/87

We agree

Most people who own shares or unit trusts will have seen the value of their portfolios fall sharply since mid-October. However, those who are considering starting a unit trust monthly savings plan now should see this as an opportunity.

One of the great attractions of investing in this way is that when prices are low, the monthly contribution buys more units. Similarly, less units are purchased when prices are high. This effect, known as 'Pound Cost Averaging,' can produce considerable benefits over a period of time.

Our own monthly savings plan, the new Prolific Savings Account, gives you the opportunity to save as little as £30 a month (or as much as you like) in one of the country's most successful unit trusts – the Prolific High Income Unit Trust.

An outstanding track record

Since its launch in September 1974, Prolific High Income has outperformed all other unit trusts in its sector.*

Indeed, if you had been able to invest £50 a month in this unit trust over the past ten years, your savings would now be worth a remarkable £26,340,* compared with £9,379 in the case of a similar investment in a building society.†

Of course, you should remember that – as the last few weeks have shown – past performance is no sure guide to the future, and the price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up, particularly over the short term.

However, we believe that the Prolific High Income Unit Trust will continue to produce a superior level of investment performance over the longer term.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Prolific High Income Unit Trust aims for a high and increasing level of income together with above average capital growth, primarily through investing in UK ordinary shares.

There are no additional charges for the Prolific Savings Account, other than the standard unit trust charges: an initial charge of 5% will be included in the buying price of the units; the annual charge is ¾% + VAT.

The prices and yield of this Trust are quoted daily in the Financial Times and other national newspapers.

Estimated current gross yield at 1st December, 1987: 4.62%.

Income distribution dates: 7th June, 7th December.

The managers may pay commission to qualified intermediaries out of their own resources. Rates are available on request.

Trustee: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc.

Managers: Prolific Unit Trust Managers Ltd.

Registered Office: 222 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 4JS. Registered in England No. 959864

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The units will be registered in the name of Prolific Unit Trust Nominees Limited and so you will not receive any contract notes or certificates. Of course, this does not affect your rights to the units as beneficial owner.

Flexibility at all times

You can increase the amount you save at any time, simply by instructing us in writing, and lump sums can be added to your Account by sending us a cheque. (Minimum £50.)

Similarly, you can reduce the amount you save each month (subject to the £30 minimum) or even stop saving at any time. However, where regular saving has stopped and the value of the Account is less than £250, we reserve the right to sell the units on your behalf, and send the proceeds to you.

At any time, you can sell back all or part of your holding; a cheque will be sent to you usually within ten working days.

Keeping track of your Account

In May and November each year you will receive a statement showing all of the transactions on your Account, together with a copy of the latest Managers' Report for the Prolific High Income Unit Trust. You will also receive a tax voucher in respect of your reinvested income.

*Source: Micropal – 30th November, 1987. Offer to bid, net income reinvested.
†Source: Micropal – 30th November, 1987 – Building Society Higher Rate.

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The Prolific Savings Account is an ideal way of building up a nest-egg for a child.

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About Prolific

Prolific Unit Trust Managers Ltd is the unit trust arm of Prolific Financial Management PLC, one of the country's leading financial services groups.

In recent years, Prolific has gained a high reputation for successful investment management, both in the UK and in overseas markets. Since 1969, when the first Prolific unit trust was launched, the number of trusts has increased to ten and funds under management have grown to over £600 million.

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I/We enclose a cheque, made payable to Prolific Unit Trust Managers Limited, for an initial investment of £______

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First name(s) ______
Address ______
______ Postcode ______

I/We have read and understood the terms of the Prolific Savings Account.

Signature ______ Date ______

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FAMILY MONEY/3

I'M AFRAID YOUR UNIT TRUSTS FROM DOWN UNDER ARE VERY DOWN AND VERY NEARLY UNDER...
Smith

Hopes hang on a generous Budget

UNIT TRUSTS

Concern over the American budget deficit continued to dominate world stock markets last month. The Continental stock exchanges fared worse than most with the realization that a lower dollar could well enable American companies to price European competition out of many world markets.

Reflecting the slide, three specialist European funds are now listed among the laggards in the latest league table for the past year. Several other European portfolios only narrowly miss inclusion.

But the most dramatic casualties of recent weeks have been a number of funds investing "down under". By mid-November the Australian All Ordinaries Index stood at half the level it was registering just seven weeks before. The biggest victims were gold mining stocks and shares of the "entrepreneurial" companies, such as the Bell Group headed by Robert Holmes à Court.

These stocks, in the forefront of the share price rise earlier this year, have now led the market down. Earlier stock selection has certainly played its part in the Australian specialist trusts' varying fortunes. Target has clearly suffered a disaster with its Australian fund. An investor just 12 months ago is currently nursing a paper loss of nearly 70 per cent. The longer-term investor is even worse off.

Target blames its misfortunes on the areas where it dealt and the delays in getting settlement for its portfolio sales. By the time money was returned to the UK, the exchange rate had been undermined by a tumbling dollar. The value of the fund has fallen £10 million since the beginning of October. The number of stocks has been drastically cut, with the current preference for the natural resources sector.

The one bright spot in the Australian gloom is NM Australia. The fund, now owned by the National Mutual Life Association of Australasia, is the only one in the sector to record a gain over the past 12 months. Prudently the fund went significantly liquid in August and September, and also new money attracted in was not invested.

So the worst of the crash has passed the fund by.

However, the manager, Rodney Webb, has recently been getting the money into the market. The £13 million fund is now only 5 per cent in cash. As for investments, around half the portfolio has been put into the commodity sector, and 25 per cent is held in consumer stocks.

Several of the performance table leaders are high-yielding UK equity income funds. The yield on many of the underlying stocks have cushioned them against the worst of the market fall, while reinvestment of net income in the table has helped their rankings.

Looking to the future, stockbrokers Kleinwort Grieveson believe London looks as attractive as any market in the world. However, the firm does not expect any immediate recovery in share prices, but suggests: "A generous spring Budget may begin to tempt bruised bargain-hunters back into the market."

UNIT TRUST PERFORMANCE

Value of £100 as at December 1, 1987

THE BEST

One Year		Three Years	
Manulife UK Sm Cos	164.9	FS Balanced Growth	339.6
Guinness Mahon High Inc	143.8	Key Income	290.3
Royal Trust Pref Share	143.6	TR Special Opps	276.2
Wellington Income	142.0	Guinness Mahon Rec	268.7
Key Income	140.3	Arkwright	259.1
Grofund Gilt	132.6	Fidelity Special Sits	246.5
NM Australia	131.1	Henderson Sml Cos Div	240.0
Fidelity Japan Spec Sit	130.1	Britannia Arrow Japan	234.4
Temple Bar Unlisted Sec	129.8	NM Schroder Jap Sml Cos	229.5
AEtna Sml Cos Div	128.8	Royal Trust Pref Shares	224.9
Average	100.2	Average	154.8

THE WORST

One Year		Three Years	
Target Euro Special Sit	56.6	MIM Brit World Tech	68.7
NM Schroder US Sml Cos	56.6	Britannia Arrow Energy	66.1
M&G American Sml Cos	56.6	NM Schroder US Sml Cos	64.5
EBC Amro French Growth	56.3	NM Schroder Sing & Maly	63.0
Dunemil French Growth	55.6	MIM Brit Universal Egy	62.1
MIM Brit Hong Kong Perf	50.1	Sentinel American Tech	59.3
Royal Trust Port H K	49.9	Henderson Sing & Maly	56.7
BG America	49.3	Canada Growth	52.0
MIM Brit Australia	47.3	MIM Britannia Aust Gwth	44.3
Target Australia	32.0	Target Australia	20.7

'Offer to bid basis, net income reinvested

Source: Planned Savings

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7·25% NET† = 9·93%* £500-£9999
No penalty withdrawal given 60 days' notice or if balance (after withdrawal) remains above £5000. Immediate withdrawal** with loss of just 60 days' interest. Minimum investment of £500 or £1,000 if monthly income. Interest rate of 0.25% less than current rate if interest paid half yearly and 0.5% less if paid monthly.

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When PLC spells bonus

INVESTORS

Rules published this week could lead to a cash bonus for building society investors.
PETER GARTLAND explains

Draft regulations from the Building Societies Commission, which regulates the activities of building societies, were sent out this week.

The regulations govern the conversion of building societies into public limited companies (PLCs), and cover members' rights in relation to the reserves that the societies have built up over the years as mutual organizations.

According to City analysts Phillips & Drew, investing members who are not eligible to vote on whether to go PLC (for example, because they are too young) will be entitled to an immediate cash bonus equivalent to their notional share of the reserves. Phillips & Drew says that on a typical reserve ratio of 4.5 per cent, a child with £1,000 invested would be entitled to receive an extra £45 immediately on conversion.

However, there is a fascinating variation on this that could alter the arithmetic dramatically by turning the bonus into a huge windfall.

Phillips & Drew says some societies have reserve ratios much higher than 4.5 per cent. Two examples quoted are the Guardian at 8 per cent and National Counties at almost 15 per cent. This means that a child investor with £10,000 in a society that had a reserve ratio of 15 per cent and opted for PLC status would be entitled to an immediate cash bonus of £1,500.

Just how likely it is that societies with such large reserve ratios will convert to PLC status remains to be seen. However, it seems that the Government will make it as easy as possible for societies to convert, and the first sign of this is that the new regulations contain significant concessions to flexibility, which were missing from a consultation paper published last summer.

'A gentler way back into the market'

The Government's helping hand for the societies is likely to be driven by the wider share ownership setback it suffered after the BP flop. According to Kevan Keegan, of Phillips & Drew, building society conversion to PLC status may well be the way to get government policy back on the rails. "Switching from mutual share ownership to public share ownership will be a gentler way back into the market for the smaller investor, especially given the societies' outstanding reputation for security and user-friendliness," he says.

With the Halifax's 10 million-plus investors and the Abbey National's eight million, a future PLC conversion by either society could mean a significant uplift in the present estimate of 10 million UK individual shareholders.

So what are the prospects? Abbey National, the industry's favourite, says it has no plans. The giant Halifax says it is not contemplating PLC status in the foreseeable future. The Skipton Building Society is quoted by many industry-watchers as a strong dark horse prospect for conversion to PLC status. Skipton's chief executive Terry Adams says it is not an urgent priority but does not exclude the the idea as a medium-term possibility.

But behind the official shyness there seems little doubt that if a leading building society was in such a tight regulatory framework that there was no other way out, then it would seek approval from its members to convert.

Quite naturally, the societies want to retain the warm and friendly image that appears to have taken root in the public consciousness. At the same time they thirst after the rich pickings they think will be available on the much-vaunted "level playing field". This term describes a retail financial industry in which there are no artificial barriers to the services that different types of institution – banks, building societies, insurance companies – can offer.

Building society services were widened by a 1986 Act allowing them to give insurance advice, set up estate agencies and offer money transmission services. However, Jim Murgatroyd, assistant general manager of the Halifax, pointed out that at the time of that legislation the societies were not facing the fierce competition that now characterizes the financial services industry.

Despite this, the societies may yet get what they want without sacrificing mutual status and exposing themselves to take-over predators.

More raised from wholesale markets

They are now to be allowed to raise a much higher proportion of their money cheaply through wholesale money markets, and a government review now in progress could result in societies offering their own unit trusts and acting as underwriters of life assurance as well as car insurance and household cover.

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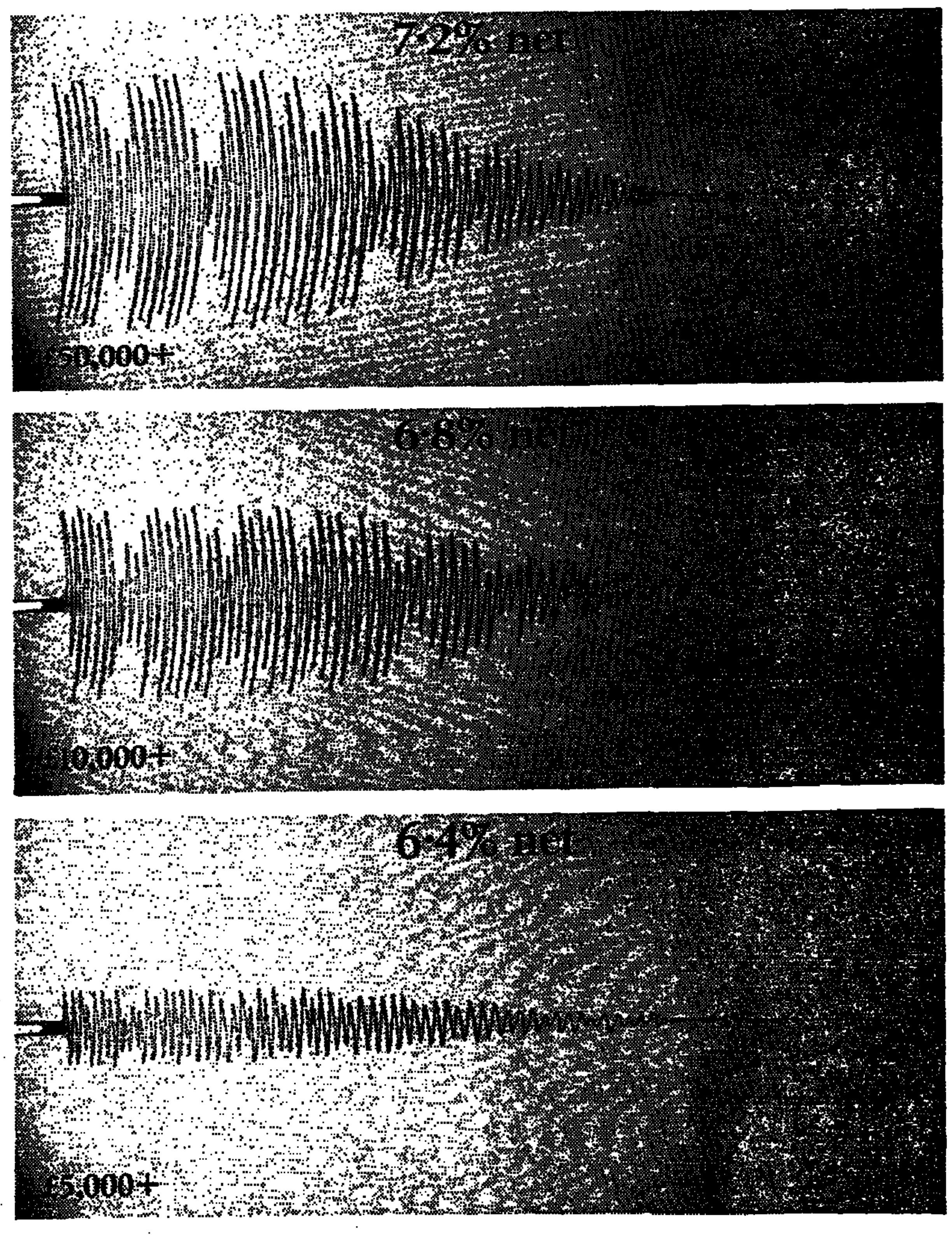

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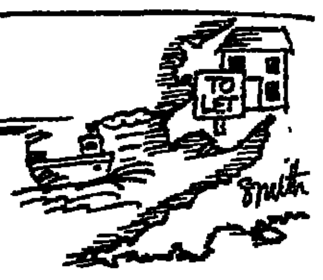
Leaving and letting



PROPERTY

Continuing the series on finance for expatriates, PAULINE SKYPALA advises on letting your home while you are abroad

While you are working overseas you can safely let your home to a friend of a friend of a friend, who will look after it and move out when you ask. You may be lucky, but it is a big chance to take, quite apart from the time and trouble involved in managing the tenancy from a distance.

There are enough agents to take the worry off your shoulders — for a price, of course. Property management will cost you 15 per cent of the monthly rent, or more — agents' fees are on the way up.

But letting your home while you are away is usually the best option, provided you live in an area where there is a demand for rented property. "Demand varies throughout the year and the country," says Norma Thompson, manager of the home management department of the relocation agents Homequity. But she maintains: "You can find a tenant for virtually anything."

Homequity, based in Swindon, Wiltshire, provides a complete property management and letting service package, but only to corporate clients such as computer, banking and oil companies.

When these companies send their clients abroad, all their home hassles are handled for them by Homequity, courtesy of their employer. And that means everything, from getting the mortgagor's or freeholder's permission to let the property, to producing letting statements for the Inland Revenue, and appealing against an assessment if necessary.

"We also contact the owner's insurers to find out what are the restrictions on the policy while the house is left empty or let," says Mrs Thompson. "Some are unacceptably restrictive, such as demanding that the place is visited daily while empty, or that the water and heating systems be completely drained if the property is empty for more than 48 hours. In these cases we try to find another insurer."

What about actually finding tenants? That depends partly on you. "The houses that let first are the ones in good order, tastefully decorated in neutral colours," says Mary Harris, rentals director of Surrey-based Horner Hill. "Tenants want accommodation that is comfortable, clean and presentable."

Standards in central London are particularly high, raised by the expectations of the foreign tenants, mainly Americans, who dominate the London letting market. "They demand modern kitchens and bathrooms, with proper showers," says Jacqueline Ironside, who heads Ironsides Residential Lettings, of Knightsbridge. "And they don't like old-fashioned furniture."

Once your property is in good shape, the other factor determining rent is location. The prime locations are all in central London. Knightsbridge, Chelsea, Belgravia, Mayfair, Kensington and Holland Park attract good rents. Hampstead and Wimbledon do well, being more popular with families wishing to live further out.

But even if you have a home to let in these areas, you cannot rub your hands in expectation of a good profit. "People's outgoings are now so high that it is often all they can do to cover them," says Miss Ironside. "We used to quote an average gross return of 10 per cent, but now it is 8 per cent or less, because house prices have risen so much."

Most expatriates, however, are concerned mainly to have their outgoings covered, and their home well looked after. And that depends on finding the right tenant. Good agents will vet potential tenants thoroughly, to ensure as far as possible that they can afford the rent, and will move out at the landlord's convenience.

Agents prefer to let to companies

Being unable to regain possession is every landlord's nightmare, which is why most agents prefer to let to companies, or on a shorthold basis, because in both cases the tenants cannot claim security of tenure under the Rent Acts, although they do have the right to apply for a fair rent.

Shorthold lets have only recently become an option for Londoners, following a change in the rules introduced in May. But outside London they have been common practice for some time.

Shorthold lets can be for terms of one year to five years. To gain repossession the landlord just has to give the tenant notice three months before the end of the term.

Expatriates do not necessarily need the protection of company or shorthold lets, as they have the extra get-out of Case 11 under the Rent Act. If you qualify as an owner-occupier, you can give notice to your tenant before the tenancy starts that you may require the property for your own use. This will not work unless you have actually lived in the property before letting it, although the law does not state how long you should have lived there.

The landlord has a potential problem with any of these rental options only if the tenant decides to stay on at the end of the tenancy. According to Robert Orr-Ewing, who runs his own letting and management company in Chelsea, it will take a minimum of two months for the legal wheels to grind and give the landlord a possession order, and could well be up to six months, at an average cost of £1,000 in legal fees.

Landlords are well advised to take out legal expenses insurance against the possibility of encountering a recalcitrant tenant.

Helping you to get your money

RIGHTS

Responsible retailers and manufacturers will already have procedures to comply with their obligations under the 1987 Consumer Protection Act, but the new laws will help the general public to obtain compensation from those that do not take so much care, or have not prepared themselves for the changes.

As might be expected from the name of the Act rushed through Parliament just before the General Election, its main intention is to aid buyers who are injured or lose money directly because a business has supplied them with defective goods intended for private use or consumption.

At present purchasers generally have two main remedies. One of these is to sue the seller of the goods, but this might not be possible if, for example, the shop has gone out of business, or the injured person has received the defective product as a gift.

In a celebrated case in the 1930s, a Mrs Donoghue was given a bottle of ginger beer contaminated by the remains of a snail. The judges decided that the manufacturer owed her a duty of care, and had to compensate her for the effects of the gastro-enteritis she had suffered.

The Consumer Protection Act ensures that a consumer suffering from the results of a defective product can take legal action against its producer. This includes any retailer that has put its own brand name on the goods. Some shops will probably limit their liability in this respect by adding a notice that the product is made for them by another manufacturer.

The purchaser of defective goods can additionally demand the name and address of the business supplying them to the retailer, who will be liable to pay the damages if this request is ignored.

Many suppliers will have obtained their stock from abroad, so the Act makes all importers of defective products into the Common Market liable for any resultant loss or damage caused to consumers.

An aggrieved purchaser can therefore sue an importer based in another country of the European Community, and rely on the courts of that country in most cases to recognize the UK judgment under the Brussels Convention of 1968.

Because this would be a long procedure, it will obviously be better to try to obtain redress from a supplier in this country.

The further international dimension of the Consumer Protection Act brings into force the product liability directive of the Council of the European Communities. Every country is, however, allowed to differ in respect of defences for suppliers of goods that turn out to be defective.

Although some other European Community nations do not permit any avoidance of liability, British MPs have decided to continue one defence known as "state of the art". If scientific knowledge at the time the defect caused the damage was such that it could not have been discovered, then the supplier is not liable.

The defence is a strict one, as a chemical supplier once found out. It had to pay for the effects of an explosion that killed a visiting Russian physicist and damaged a laboratory because there was no warning about the harmful effects of water on a chemical.

Although the defence of state of the art was raised, the dangers had been pointed out in obscure French scientific journals nearly a century before the incident.

The UK insistence on this measure means that once again there is disharmony within the European Community, but the council's directive in one other respect will be brought into effect in full.

A legal action must be brought not later than three years after the cause of action arose. This period may start from the time when a victim first realized that a defective product was the source of the loss or damage.

There is, however, an absolute time limit, in that a supplier is not liable after 10 years from the supply of the defective product.

Despite these restrictions buyers suffering injury or financial loss from the effects of defective goods will have a greater choice of action. Manufacturers as well as importers can also be made to pay for their lack of care, so they too must take adequate measures to prepare for their new liabilities.

Peter M. Walker
Barrister

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Up to £2,500	5.05 = 6.92*	
Up to £5,000	6.40 = 8.77*	4.00 = 5.48*
Up to £15,000	7.30 = 10.00*	4.50 = 6.16*
Over £15,000	7.50 = 10.27*	5.00 = 6.85*

*Gross equivalent to basic rate tax payers.

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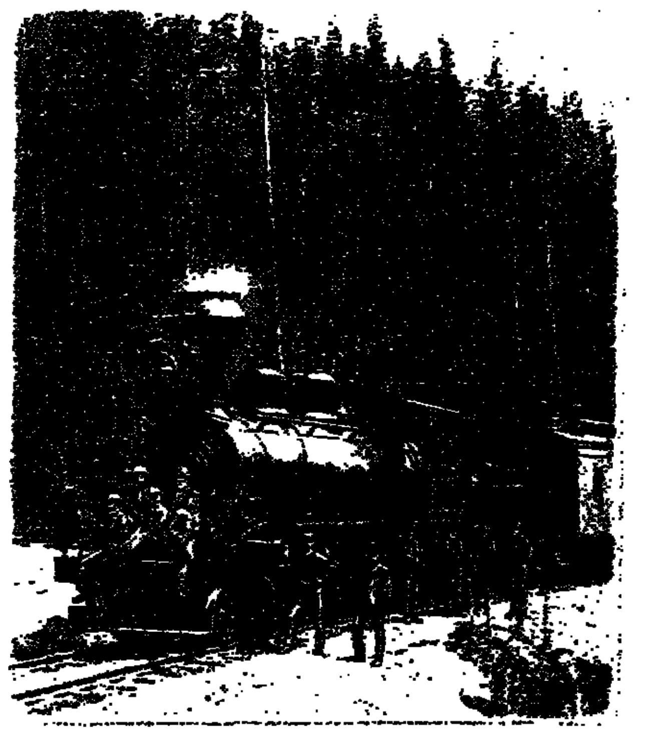

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The prudent father and his sad sons

TAX

Jonathan did some major but fairly straightforward tax planning earlier this year and now his family are deeply regretting it. The trouble arose because of the stock market crash and an *unfortunate and* unjust anomaly in the tax law.

With a parcel of shares worth just £50,000, which he wanted to pass down to his two *grown-up children*, Jonathan decided to look at the problem of Inheritance Tax.

He had enough assets, roughly £400,000 in all, including *his home, which*, together with his pension, meant that his own financial future was secure. As a widower in his mid-60s, he felt that Inheritance Tax planning was probably his top priority because at current rates and values, the tax payable on his estate would probably total more than £140,000.

By giving away £50,000 now, he could save his beneficiaries as much as £30,000 in Inheritance Tax at current rates — for if he survives for a *further* seven years *after* making the gift, the entire £50,000 would fall out of his taxable estate. This would save tax at 60 per cent.

He was advised that there would be no Capital Gains Tax problem either, because he would not have to sell the shares in order to make the gifts. Jonathan could gift the shares and together with his children write to the inspector of taxes asking for the gain to be held over.

In this way, no Capital Gains Tax would be chargeable on the gift. Instead the tax would simply be postponed until the children ultimately sold the shares.

Of course, they would take over Jonathan's base acquisition value, but indexation relief would continue to accrue. And, more to the point, his children would each have a small gains exemption available every year to set against the gain.

The chances are that in time the Capital Gains Tax might be eliminated.

All in all, it seemed an attractive plan that appeared to save both Capital Gains Tax and, so long as Jonathan survived for seven years, Inheritance Tax as well. Besides, what could go wrong?

So in July this year, Jonathan gave his two sons £50,000 between them and they elected to hold over the £40,000 gain.

Then two things happened. First, the very hale and healthy Jonathan suddenly died in September. Then the stock market crashed in October leaving the sons with two portfolios now jointly worth only £30,000.

Because Jonathan died in the seven-year period, the whole £50,000 has to be added back into his estate and will be taxed effectively at his top rate. For the trouble was that there is no provision giving tax relief on a lifetime gift in these circumstances. The full value of the gift at the time it was made has to be added back into the estate at death.

So, even though the shares are now worth only £30,000, the whole £50,000 would be added back into the estate in order to calculate the tax payable. At 60 per cent on this *notional amount, the tax on* the shares will be £30,000, which is roughly what they are worth today.

So the £30,000 tax payable on them is in effect a real tax rate of 100 per cent.

The strange irony is that Jonathan's heirs would have been better off if he had not made the lifetime gift. The shares would have stayed in his estate and a special and very helpful rule would have applied.

The general rule is that when assets are transferred, they will normally be valued for tax purposes at the amount they would have fetched just before the death.

A stock exchange *quote is needed*

However, if the shares are quoted and are transferred at a person's death, then the taxable amount can be reduced if the stock is sold within 12 months of death and the sale proceeds turn out to be less than the original value at death. By no means all assets qualify for this treatment — they must be quoted on a recognized stock exchange, although unit trusts do count.

So, if Jonathan had hung on to his shares and died with them in his possession, his heirs could have sold them for the £30,000 they would fetch now and they could knock £20,000 off the value of Jonathan's taxable estate.

ARE YOU SURE MY POCKET MONEY IS FREE OF INHERITANCE TAX, DAD?
Smith

The Inheritance Tax saving of 60 per cent would have been £12,000.

It is in fact illogical that this relief should apply only to transfers at death and not to lifetime gifts, which are, in most other ways, encouraged.

It is perhaps reasonable that a lifetime gift that is so close to being a death transfer should be treated in the same way. But it is difficult to see why it should be discriminated against so savagely.

Jonathan's heirs faced yet one more penalty as a result of his provident tax planning. Had he retained the shares, the Capital Gains Tax liability would have been extinguished at his death. Now, the gain has been held over and the two sons have, in effect, inherited the tax liability.

However, they should be able to claim some relief for the Inheritance Tax paid and they can probably still dissipate the gain gradually through their exemptions.

If, like Jonathan, you are intending to transfer some shares, you should consider taking two actions. You could write to Nigel Lawson asking him to change the law in his next Budget. Then take out life assurance for at least seven years for the top rate of tax that would probably apply to a transfer on death.

If you have inherited quoted securities in the past 12 months, the chances are that some of them will be worth substantially less than the amount at death. You should be reviewing the position with your solicitor and stockbroker as a matter of great urgency before the 12-month period runs out.

Danby Bloch and Raymond Godfrey

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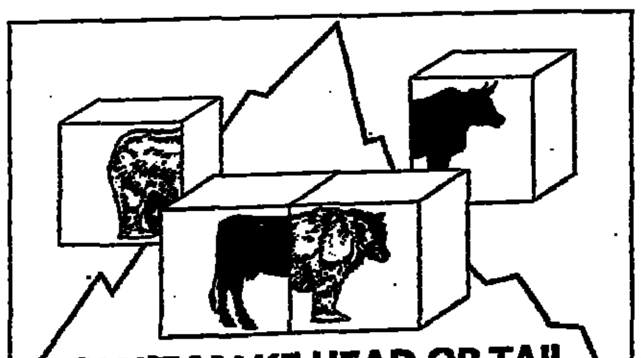

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Portfolio —Gold—

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 27).

Stock No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+6	-4	+3	+6	+4		
2	+6	-5	+7	+6	+8		
3	+5	-3	+2	+5	+4		
4	+3	-3	+4	+5	+3		
5	+7	-3	+2	+6	+5		
6	+3	-2	+4	+4	+2		
7	+5	-4	+5	+6	+6		
8	+5	-4	+3	+4	+4		
9	+5	-5	+5	+7	+8		
10	+7	-4	+3	+5	+6		
11	+4	-2	+2	+3	+4		
12	+7	-4	+1	+7	+5		
13	+5	-3	+5	+4	+2		
14	+6	-2	+2	+4	+5		
15	+6	-5	+5	+7	+7		
16	+5	-4	+4	+4	+2		
17	+8	-4	+1	+7	+5		
18	+5	-3	+1	+3	+3		
19	+4	-3	+3	+3	+3		
20	+7	-6	+5	+7	+7		
21	+8	-5	+3	+5	+4		
22	+4	-3	+5	+3	+2		
23	+6	-5	+5	+6	+7		
24	+6	-4	+1	+6	+5		
25	+4	-3	+5	+3	+3		
26	+6	-3	+1	+5	+3		
27	+7	-3	+2	+5	+6		
28	+7	-5	+5	+6	+8		
29	+5	-4	+1	+4	+3		
30	+4	-3	+4	+6	+2		
31	+6	-6	+5	+7	+6		
32	+5	-2	+2	+3	+3		
33	+3	-4	+4	+3	+3		
34	+6	-3	+2	+6	+5		
35	+5	-4	+5	+8	+7		
36	+6	-4	+3	+4	+3		
37	+5	-2	+4	+4	+2		
38	+5	-5	+6	+8	+7		
39	+8	-4	+2	+7	+4		
40	+4	-2	+4	+5	+2		
41	+7	-5	+1	+5	+6		
42	+6	-5	+7	+6	+7		
43	+4	-3	+3	+3	+2		
44	+4	-3	+1	+5	+5		

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Wares without labels

The Consumers' Association, along with some ostensibly strange bedfellows in the *insurance industry, has* been pressing banks, building societies and the small army of independent salesmen to label themselves and their products. *So far, the discussions* have got nowhere.

Christine Leach, an independent intermediary who, it must be said, is not keen on *having the banks and building* societies muscle in on the middle ground, says: "Lautro (the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organis*ation) does not see the* necessity of having status displayed on the outside of a building."

Lautro has the Securities and Investments Board on its side. *The SIB's own rule book* says only that the affiliations of a branch or adviser must be made obvious to an investor.

There is no obligation to display a poster or put a brass plaque on the wall. But, says the SIB, there is nothing to stop this — nothing, that is, except some perfectly valid marketing tactics designed to get the customer into the building and seated.

The SIB is quite clear about the procedure to be followed once you are seated. The salesman — who a minute earlier might have been a humble bank clerk — must make it clear "immediately" whom he or she represents. That might well involve handing over a business card.

"We are determined to ensure that the customer is not confused," says the SIB.

Miss Leach, immediate past president of the Life Insurance Association, would certainly welcome that assurance. But, she says, most consumers have short memories. Without constant reminders, they might forget which bank is selling whose policies. Even financially aware customers with good memories could be confused when the dealerships now being negotiated begin to fall apart. A company selling *Brand X one day might sell its* own product the next.

Under present rules — and, to be fair, the draughtsmen are still at work — the change could happen without any indication to the man in the street.

Much will depend on the success of advertising campaigns. But without external status symbols even these could lead to slightly ludicrous situations.

Take the case of the Abbey National Building Society, which has agreed to sell Friends' Provident insurance policies. By the SIB definition, the Abbey National is a tied agent — offering the products of only one company.

Most people going into the Abbey National will be existing customers. That is the one point on which everybody agrees. So long as the customers restrict their business to building society matters, the girl behind the counter need not divulge her Friends' Prov*ident link. Indeed*, she can even give "generic advice" about insurance without infringing the Lautro rules. The fun begins when the customer mentions the Clerical Medical advertisement he has seen on television.

'We'll observe the Lautro instructions'

Under the rules, the girl must immediately abandon her role as an Abbey National teller and say she represents Friends' Provident.

Mike Burn, head of insurance and pensions at Abbey National, tends to gloss over the question of displayed status. "We will do whatever Lautro says we must do," he said. "We will make it plain to our customers just whom we represent and put it on our letterheads and business cards. But Friends' Provident *are the compliance officers* and it's up to them to ensure that the rules are observed."

The status question is equally interesting at the Nationwide Anglia Building Society, which has opted to be an independent intermediary. Nevertheless, at 51 of its 900 or more branches, the Nationwide offers customers a share-dealing service through Hoare Govett, the brokers.

Brian Whitfield, general manager of marketing, said the service — "still under test" — does not involve giving advice. For that reason, it is exempt from the rules on advice in the Financial Services Act.

But the girl at Nationwide will be able to give advice on other matters, perhaps even on the unit trusts managed by *Hoare Govett. From the street*, however, the vested interests will not be clear.

The question of displayed status has become more significant since the recent news *that* building societies may be allowed to offer their own unit trusts. If and when that happens, the customer who just popped in to deposit £100 could well be confused. Yet all is not lost. The National Westminster Bank, the only one of the Big Four to opt for an independent role, *may give the Consumers'* Association what it wants.

Michael Lydon, the deputy general manager, concedes that when the dust has settled — *"we are being driven crazy by bureaucracy"* — NatWest branches could display a Camifa logo in their windows. Camifa stands for Campaign for Independent Financial Advice. But, unless the consumer knows that, the impact is likely to be lost.

Keith Sharp

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CARS

Christie's sold the 1931 Bugatti Royale automobile known as the "Kellner coach" for £5.5 million last month.

The price was more than 5,000 times the amount paid for the motor car by its last owner in 1951. It was by far the largest figure ever realized for an automobile and firmly established important historic cars as collectable assets on a par with more traditional art market investments.

Although the six Bugatti Royales built are without doubt the world's most valuable cars, there are several other models that would sell today for more than £500,000, and some examples are sure to sell for more than £1 million should those rarities become available.

Such is the interest and enthusiasm of the rapidly growing old car movement that prices of all historically interesting cars are rising at an astonishing rate.

Whether you have £500 or £5 million you can make investments in veteran (pre-1919), vintage (1919-45), post-vintage (1931-45) or classic (post-war) automobiles. Although it has only been in the 1980s that old car values have risen dramatically, and really only since 1983 that values have doubled and even tripled for some popular models, the historic car movement has been thriving in Britain since the war. At that time, and indeed until the 1970s, elderly cars were bought either for recreation or for economic necessity, but as recently as 20 years ago it was becoming clear to many entrepreneurial enthusiasts that the coach-built exotic or race-winning automobile of bygone days would soon be worth a great deal of money.

It was at this time that such automobiles began to be more widely appreciated both for their artistic and aesthetic merit and for their often innovatory engineering excellence. As dynamics and costs took their identity toll on modern mass-produced cars, so the magnificent, big-capacity performance cars of old became desirable.

Suddenly, what had always been regarded as nothing more than "old" cars, even "bangers", became "collectable" and "historic".

The fuel crisis slowed the interest in collectors' cars in the early 1970s and at that time many of the most desirable post-war performance cars could be bought very cheaply. But the petrol shortage threat was not to last, and ever since then interest in and demand for old cars has grown from strength to strength.

As with every collectable *objet d'art*, there are specific criteria governing the desirability and investment potential of the historic car.

Of primary importance is the artist's name — the maker of the car and the builder and designer of its drivetrain, coachwork and interior. The vehicle's original market price and its market status at the time is of little importance relative to the name of the companies that built it. Indeed, a high market price when new has never been a guarantee of excellence, only of rarity, which is only one of many valuable influences.

The vehicle's condition is naturally important, but not at the expense of originality. If the car has been restored the quality of the renovation is critical to its worth. If a vehicle requires restoration, the vehicle's complexity and its parts availability become more important. Extensive restoration and parts purchasing can soon diminish at least the short-term investment potential of even the most desirable automobiles.

The vehicle's history may also have a fundamental effect on the car's value, especially if the vehicle has had a notable competition past or is of particularly low mileage.

Indeed, it is the potential value of a good provenance that has led to so many false claims by owners of apparently important automobiles, and with collectors' car values rising at the rate they are, the construction of complete fakes from scratch using false chassis numbers is worryingly common.

Although old car enthusiasts the world over have long predicted a rise in value in the most significant old automobiles, even the most optimistic of old car speculators are unlikely to have predicted the huge increase in prices of many notable automobiles.

The AC Cobra 427 is a good example of a sports car from the 1960s that has rocketed in value during the past decade. The Cobra's desirability to the collector lies in its tremendous performance, its competition pedigree, and in its operational reliability and comparative ease of restoration. It was, until very recently, the fastest-accelerating car in the world, and it has proved to be one of the fastest-appreciating cars too.

In 1975 a good 427 Cobra could be bought for around £5,000, yet only 12 years on at Christie's Motorfair auction this year just such a car sold for £121,000.

Nor is the AC such an unusual example. Instead of spending your £5,000 on the AC in 1975, the same money spent on a Ferrari Daytona coupé would stand you in just as good a financial state today. On November 20 the American auctioneer Rick Cole sold an exceptionally low mileage Daytona for $252,000. Had that car been the much rarer convertible version, the price would have been much higher.

The less affluent old car investor could have made proportional gains in recent years too. Three years ago an excellent Alfa Romeo Duetto Spider could be readily bought for around £2,000. Today the same car is worth around £7,000, maybe more. The pretty 1960s Lotus Elite has doubled in value in barely two years, excellent examples now realizing more than £12,000.

Even "bread and butter" cars of old — such cars as the Morris Minor Traveller — are affected by a new, higher demand. As much as £3,000 can be spent buying one of those nowadays.

The attractions of investing in old cars rather than other forms of less exciting investment are obvious, and assuming one buys wisely the returd on capital can be impressive.

And, most importantly, old cars are not yet liable to Capital Gains Tax. It is wiser to hand down the family millions by way of half a dozen choice Ferraris than by banker's draft!

Unfortunately though, in spite of the many attractions of historic car ownership and investment, there are as many pitfalls.

What is worse, there is no duty or VAT relief liable on old car importation as Customs and Excise still regard even the most collectable vehicles as nothing more than second-hand cars. Unless your vehicle is of exceptional historical importance (as was the case with Bugatti Royale sold by Christie's) no Customs and Excise sympathy can be expected.

The condition of old cars also deteriorates far more quickly than other comparable forms of investment.

The situation is worse today than ever before as, in response to increased demand from the classic car-owning masses, numerous inexperienced motor engineers and repairers have established themselves as classic car restoration specialists. Thousands can be spent ruining collectable cars through unsympathetic restoration.

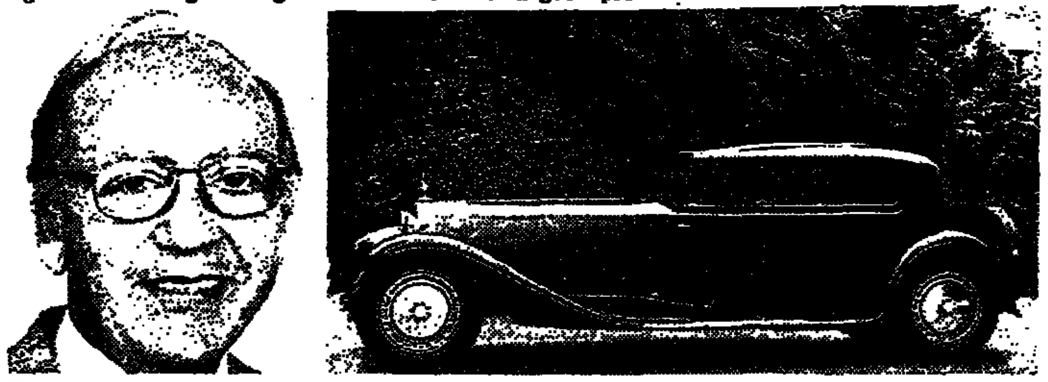
It is precisely because of these enormous pitfalls that British Car Auctions has announced a new division to specialize in all aspects of buying and selling veteran, vintage, post-vintage and classic cars.

Although there are several other companies that auction collectors' cars — Sotheby's and Christie's leading the field — there are no old car auction companies providing what British Car Auction's director Neil Crabb describes as "a complete customer service".

The British Car Auctions Historic Automobile Division, based at the company's headquarters in Expedier House, Hindhead, Surrey, has three auctions planned for next year at Brocket Hall in Hertfordshire.

Entries are now invited for the first of the three sales to be held on April 11.

Richard Sutton



The magnificent £5.5 million Bugatti Royale. Left: Neil Crabb aims to provide a service for old cars

A safety seal on the flats firms

TIMESHARE

The official launch last week of the Timeshare Developers Association (TDA) marks what ought to be a watershed in the timeshare industry.

Until recently there were three trade organizations — the Timeshare Developers Group, British Property Timeshare Association and European Holiday Timeshare Association — all claiming to represent the best of British timeshare.

However, the three associations decided sensibly, and after discussing the issues for a year or so, to combine their best points and form the TDA. This body now represents more than half the UK ownership and should, therefore, give the industry the clout it has so sorely lacked during the past decade.

Twenty-six of the 50 or more UK timeshare developers belong to the TDA and another half-dozen are being scrutinized by the panel of TDA specialist lawyers with the aim of being enrolled within a few months. The association hopes to represent about 80 per cent of UK developers within five years. It intends eventually to be to timeshare what ABTA is to the travel industry.

Frank Chapman: "confidence"

The increasing popularity of timeshare is shown by the fact that this year alone £250 million worth of weeks have been sold to 40,000 new owners — a 50 per cent addition to the 80,000 owners it has taken the past decade to accrue.

These 120,000 purchasers have on average a family of three, and buy two weeks abroad for every week in Britain. The TDA claims to represent one out of every two buyers at present, and to cover more than two-thirds of all owners in the UK.

Once accepted into the TDA, developers pay an annual subscription according to the number of weeks they have to sell. So those with up to 500 weeks pay £5,000 a year; those with between 500 and 2,000 pay £10,000; and those with more than 2,000 pay £15,000.

The money will fund a secretariat to answer questions from the public, to cope with any arbitration deemed necesssary, to market the TDA and to make the potential purchaser fully aware of the association's aims. These aims are:

- Consumer protection
- Self-regulation of the industry
- Provision of a consumer information and advice service with plans for an independent arbitration system
- Liaison with the Government, trading standards authorities and other opinion-formers
- Promotion of timeshare as one of the most reliable holiday products in the travel industry.

The chairman of the TDA, Frank Chapman, who is also chairman of Barratt Multi-Ownership, says: "The timeshare industry has had its problems but is maturing rapidly and not only deserves the backing of a strong and unified trade association but is now well able to face up to the industry's problems. It is our firm intention to demonstrate that the consumer can buy with confidence from a TDA member."

The TDA's strict code of conduct ensures that:

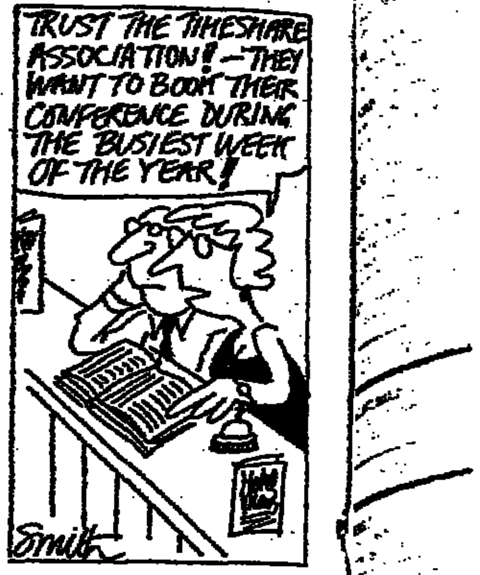
- Any resorts employing a sales force will make certain that staff work in accordance with local laws and operate away from public beaches and hotel swimming pools and are clearly identifiable
- All information, including rental, resale and exchange potential is accurate and consistent
- All contracts include a minimum five-day "cooling-off" period
- Incentives, "discounts" and "free" gifts are clearly described and are absolutely genuine.

Graham Williams, of Elliott Properties, who is head of the TDA's consumer advisory group, says: "All our purchasers are guaranteed legal title and a mortgage-free purchase — both of which are particularly relevant overseas.

"The TDA positively encourages inquiries from the general public and now that we have a higher profile we expect a larger number of queries.

"We intend to discuss with the high street banks such as the Royal Bank of Scotland and the Midland the possibility of having a blanket procedure to lend on all TDA projects.

"Currently the Royal Bank of Scotland lends on individual schemes, including Elliott, Barratt and Wimpey, at 2.5 per cent over base rate up to 10 years."


TRUST THE TIMESHARE ASSOCIATION! — THEY WANT TO BOOK THEIR CONFERENCE DURING THE BUSIEST WEEK OF THE YEAR!
Smith

In a statement that seems to suggest a governmental seal of approval, John Lee, the Minister for Tourism, told MPs at a recent timeshare exhibition: "We see evidence for the first time of the main players in the industry coming together to make a concerted attempt to raise the profile and emphasize the quality of timeshare.

"The TDA's code of good practice emphasizes government belief — an approach of voluntary self-regulation by the industry."

Diana Wildman

Details: TDA, 19 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LB (01-931 7800)

Law Report December 5 1987 Court of Appeal

Doubtful contract no ground for restraining broadcast

Cambridge Nutrition Ltd v British Broadcasting Corporation

Before Lord Justice Kerr, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Mr Justice Eastham

[Judgment November 26]

It was highly undesirable to restrain a defendant from publishing or transmitting a programme on the ground of a possible breach of an alleged unwritten and doubtful contract made with the plaintiff to the effect that the programme would be transmitted after a certain event.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a judgment allowing an appeal by the defendants, the British Broadcasting Corporation, from an order dated October 29, 1987, of Judge Tibber, sitting as a judge of the Queen's Bench Division in chambers.

On a motion by the plaintiffs, Cambridge Nutrition Ltd, the judge had granted an interlocutory injunction restraining the BBC from publishing or transmitting in any manner any programme on a very low calorie diet containing material or information provided only by or whose provision was in any manner facilitated by the plaintiffs after March 23, 1987, prior to the trial of the present action or earlier publication by the government of a report by the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food (the Coma report) on the use of very low calorie diets.

Mr David Eady, QC and Mr Manuel Barca for the BBC; Mr Gavin Lightman, QC and Mr J. P. Whittaker for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE KERR said that the plaintiffs were the originators of the Cambridge Diet, a very low calorie diet. It assisted in losing weight providing only 330 calories daily and was taken in the form of powder available in eleven flavours. The diet enjoyed distinguished medical support and was being used by a large number of people.

Very low calorie diet was going to be the subject of the Coma report which was to be published shortly.

Over a period the BBC had been preparing a television programme which focused on the Cambridge Diet. That programme was complete and was ready for transmission and the BBC wished to transmit it before the Coma report was published.

The plaintiffs maintained that when the possibility of making the programme was discussed it was agreed that one of the two conditions was that the programme would not be broadcast before the Coma report. They requested the BBC at the time to confirm but that confirmation never came through. There was no mention of that condition until August 1987 when the plaintiffs brought it up and the BBC denied it.

The BBC had advertised the programme to be transmitted on Saturday November 28 but that was irrelevant for the purposes of the present appeal.

His Lordship thought it necessary to observe that the present case had been listed, being an interlocutory appeal, for a two-judge court. But on reading the papers last week his Lordship realized that, because of its importance, it was suitable case for a three-judge court. Thus arrangements were altered.

It was necessary for counsel to consider whether such appeals were really suitable for a two-judge court. If they felt that it was not it was their duty to inform the registrar of civil appeals so that proper arrangements were made.

The plaintiffs submitted that if the injunction was discharged it would be quite catastrophic from their point of view and they relied on *American Cyanamid Co v Ethicon Ltd* ([1975] AC 396). The BBC submitted that the grant of the injunction would render the programme out of date and all the efforts and money spent would go to waste.

They submitted that *American Cyanamid* did not apply. There was no *status quo* to be preserved. The instant case was closer to *Cayne v Global Natural Resources plc* (1984] 1 All ER 225) where the grant of the injunction would amount to putting an end to the action. In such cases the court had to avoid doing injustice to the parties.

His Lordship did not think that *American Cyanamid* applied here. The judge had granted the injunction on the basis that if it turned out that there was no contract that the programme should not be transmitted before the Coma report was out then the BBC could be compensated.

But in such circumstances the BBC would suffer uncompensatable damage. It was the BBC's duty to broadcast on subjects of public interest and this diet at the present time was of that interest. The consequence of granting the injunction would be to deprive the BBC of an opportunity to transmit a discussion on matters of public interest. *Schering Chemicals Ltd v Falkman Ltd* ([1982] QB 1) did not apply here as no question of damages for breach of confidence arose.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON, agreeing, said that since neither party would be adequately compensated by an award of damages the guidance offered by Lord Diplock in *American Cyanamid* (at p409) applied. What was said there was: "If the extent of the uncompensatable disadvantage to each party would not differ widely, it may not be improper to take into account in tipping the balance the relative strength of each party's case . . .".

His Lordship would hold that on the evidence before the judge the present case was at best for the plaintiffs clearly within that principle. The uncompensatable disadvantage of each party was difficult to assess separately and therefore even more difficult to compare with any confidence that one was more grave than the other. Thus the relative strength of the parties' cases should be taken into account and that could be done by reference to the undisputed evidence on the affidavits and documents.

On the evidence as it now stood, it seemed clearly an improbability that those concerned in the making of the programme on behalf of the BBC were unaware until the letter was sent in August 1987, that the plaintiffs were alleging that a contract to the present effect had been made.

It seemed likely that, whichever way the ultimate decision went, this was a case of honest misunderstanding and not of an attempt to avoid a promise given or confirmed after deliberation.

The judge refused to regard the BBC as possessed of any right which would entitle them, in the circumstances of the present case, to override a clear obligation of confidence, or the clear obligation not to broadcast assumed by contract. In that his Lordship agreed with the judge.

It was not necessary to examine in detail, or to decide upon, the submissions of Mr Eady to the effect that because of the public importance of the concept of free speech it was the duty of the judge, or that it was open to him, to refuse the injunction if otherwise the plaintiffs had proved their right to it.

MR JUSTICE EASTHAM, agreeing that the appeal should be allowed, said that he was not prepared to find that the judge's conclusion that he should apply the guidelines contained in the speech of Lord Diplock in *American Cyanamid* was wrong. The judge's conclusion that the plaintiffs' claim was sufficiently plausible to be taken seriously was right.

However, the judge was wrong in three respects. First, when he concluded that the BBC could be adquately compensated in damages if it turned out that it was wrong to grant the injunction. Second, the judge was wrong in holding that *Schering Chemicals Ltd v Falkman Ltd* was very similar to the instant case. He was also wrong, on the facts before him, in holding that the freedom of speech aspect was completely balanced by the assertion by the plaintiffs of the existence of a contract.

As the judge was wrong in those aspects this court was entitled, indeed under a duty, to review the exercise of his discretion. Furthermore, although the freedom of speech aspect was overstated by the BBC the right of someone like the BBC to produce and to show programmes on matters of public interest, was of considerable, but not of overriding, importance and that considerably important matter was not balanced by the mere assertion on weak grounds of a contractual obligation to defer transmission.

Solicitor: Mr G. G. Del Medico; Peter Carter-Ruck & Partners

Landlords entitled to possession of shorthold tenancy

Gent and Others v de la Mare

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Glidewell and Sir Denys Buckley

[Judgment December 2]

Where a tenant who had been granted a protected shorthold tenancy held over in accordance with a term of the tenancy agreement which provided for the landlords to give notice if they did not wish to renew it, the landlords were entitled to obtain possession under Case 19 of Schedule 15 to the Rent Act 1977.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by the defendant tenant, Richard St Clair de la Mare, from a decision of Judge Blomefield sitting at Newbury County Court whereby he had granted the plaintiff landlords, Robin Charles Frederick Lewis Gent, Elizabeth Mary Gent and John Charles Gent, an order for possession of South Stanmore Farmhouse, Beedon, Newbury.

The tenant in person; Mr Edward Hess for the landlords.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that by an agreement dated August 7, 1983 the landlords agreed to let South Stanmore Farmhouse on a protected shorthold tenancy for one year. The landlords were to give three months' notice in writing in the event of not wishing to continue the tenancy.

After August 7, 1984, the landlords not having indicated that they wished to renew the agreement or given any notice, the tenant remained in occupation. On August 14, 1985 the landlords claimed possession on the ground that the tenant was in arrears with the rent and that since the tenancy was originally shorthold it fell within Case 19 of Schedule 15 to the 1977 Act.

No defence had been entered and at the date of hearing the tenant had not appeared. The judge had made an order for possession expressed to be "forthwith".

The tenant had applied to the judge for leave to appeal, which had been granted. The point which eventually arose was not easy. It had been argued with clarity both by the tenant and by counsel for the landlords.

One of the cases for recovery of possession under the 1977 Act was Case 19 of Schedule 15, inserted by section 55 of the Housing Act 1980. That case related to a dwellinghouse let on a protected shorthold tenancy.

A protected shorthold tenancy was a species of protected tenancy within section 1 of the 1977 Act. By section 52(1) of the Housing Act 1980 a protected shorthold tenancy was "a protected tenancy granted after the commencement of this section which is granted for a term certain of not less than one year nor more than five years" which satisfied various cuditions. It was accepted by the tenant that the requirements of subsection (1) were fulfilled.

The tenant had referred the court to section 55(5), which provided: "If a protected tenancy is granted after the commencement of this section — . . . (*b*) for such a term certain [as is mentioned in subsection (1)] and thereafter from year to year . . . the tenancy is a protected tenancy".

He submitted that the tenancy was not within paragraph (*b*) because it was not for a term certain and thereafter from year to year. He further submitted that if it was not within section 55(5) it was not a protected shorthold tenancy at all, or, if the original tenancy was a protected shorthold tenancy, he had continued to pay rent and that had created a tenancy from year to year which, not being under the agreement of August 7, 1983, could only be determined by six month's notice.

In answer Mr Hess had contended that it was a tenancy for a term certain and thereafter from year to year, but in any event that did not matter because the court had to look at Case 19 to find out the circumstances under which an order for possession would be made.

It was submitted for the landlords that the tenancy under which the house was let for the first year was quite clearly a shorthold tenancy under section 52(1) of the 1980 Act, and in that his Lordship agreed.

Then it was submitted that at the end of the first year it became a tenancy under an agreement arising not by operation of law but under clause 2 of the agreement itself, because the provision that "the landlords shall give to the tenant three months' notice in writing prior to the expiration date in the event of their not wishing to renew this agreement for a furhter term" meant that if such notice was not given the agreement would be renewed for a further year.

In other words, from August 7, 1984 to August 6, 1985 the tenant was in occupation in all ways in accordance with the terms of the agreement save that the tenancy would not be a protected shorthold tenancy. Whether or not such a tenancy fell within section 52(5) (and his Lordship inclined to the view that it did) it certainly did fall within Case 19.

Accordingly the judge had been right to make an order for possession.

Sir Denys Buckley delivered a concurring judgment and the Master of the Rolls agreed.

Solicitors: Charles Lucas & Marshall, Newbury.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS

This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips: but their heart is far from me.

BIRTHS

BALFOUR - *On December 1st*, to Jenny and David, a son, William Nicholas, a brother for Victoria and Malcolm.

BLACKBURN - On December 1st, at St. George's, Tooting, to Louise and Mike, a son, Barnaby George Stanway.

CARTWRIGHT - On November 27th, to Fiona (née Watson) and Paul, a son, Mark Andrew Stewart.

CLOSIER - On November 30th, 1987, to Fiona (née Buchanan) and Ian, a daughter Philippa Sarah, a sister for Charlotte.

CROOKSHANK - On December 2nd 1987, to Kathryn (née Reading) and Charles, a daughter Annabel.

GARNER - On December 1st, to Veronica (née Pickett) and Marshall, a son, James Richard Kenneth, a brother for Clare.

JENKS - *On December 1st, at Queen* Charlotte's Hospital, to Sally and John, a daughter, Annabel Jane Pamela.

McCREEDY - On December 2nd 1987, to Kerree and Alan, a son Jake.

MILES-MACHEN - On December 1st, at Worcester, to Catrin and Tom, a daughter, Lois Jonquil Olivia.

MORPETH - On December 1st, at St. Thomas' Hospital to Angela (née Devitt) and Iain, a son Duncan Hugh Sinclair a brother for Richard.

O'HARE - On December 2nd, to Lindy (née Turvey) and Mark, a daughter, Josephine Astrid, a sister for Cordelia.

SLOANE - On December 3rd, to Susan (née Hollowell) and Timothy, a son Alastair John, a brother for Rory.

STEADMAN - On November 17th, in Berkeley, California, to Barbara (née Walsh) and Julian, a son, Ian Leslie Paul.

VACHER - On December 1st, to Tilly and Chris, a son Toby Charles Edward, a brother for William.

WAKELY - On December 1st 1987, at the Portland Hospital, to Barbara (née Neuhedel) and John a daughter Katherine Diana Neuhedel Wakely.

WEST - On November 30th, to Jenny (née Mayes) and Micheal, a son.

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

BALLANCE:SHARLES On 5th December 1947 at St. James's Church, Spanish Place, Derek to Eileen.

DEATHS

BARNSLEY - On December 2nd, Edward, peacefully after a long illness, aged 87. Family cremation December 10th, memorial service later, no flowers, but donations, if desired to Edward Barnsley Educational Trust, Froxfield, GU32 1BB.

CHARLICK - On December 3rd 1987, peacefully at home, Derek Braithwaite, aged 72, a muched loved husband, father and Grandfather. *Funeral* service Wednesday 9th December 12.30 pm at Bournemouth Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for the Cheshire Foundation Care Service maybe sent to Deric Scott, Portman Lodge Funeral Home, Bournemouth.

DARRELL - *On December 2nd*, peacefully in hospital, Peter Darrell - Artistic Director of Scottish Ballet. Beloved son of Leonard and Flora Skinner. Cremation private at his own request.

DICKINS - On November 25th, after a long illness, Anthony Stewart Mackay aged 73, younger son of Brigadier Frederick Dickins C.I.E. Donations to Trinity Hospice, 30 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0RN

DYSON - *On* December 2nd, peacefully at home, Watson, aged 83 years. Service at the Crematorium, Exeter at 2.30 pm, December 8th. No flowers, donations, if desired, to the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

ORR - On November 30th, C. Bruce, KPM, recently of Steeple Ashton at Chacombe House.

ROBERTS - On December 3rd, Thomas Vaughan, suddenly at Penrith, Cumbria. Beloved husband of Nancy, father of Rosamund, Thomas, John and Susan. Funeral Bampton Church 1pm, December 8th followed by family cremation. Family flowers only.

SAVORY - On November 30th, Christopher husband of the late Daphne father of John, Robert and Tam. Funeral service at Holy Trinity Church, Bengeo, Hertford, Wednesday the 9th December at 12 noon. No flowers please but donations to the Friends of Saint Leonards Church c/o of Rev. Weale, Bengeo Rectory, Hertford.

SMELLIE - On November 30th, peacefully in hospital, Professor Kingsley Bryce Speakman Smellie, beloved husband of Stephanie, shortly after his 90th birthday. The cremation will be at Mortlake Crematorium at 2.45 pm on Wednesday December 9th. No flowers, by request.

WALTON - On November 27th, suddenly, John, of Empingham Rutland, aged 72 years. Much loved husband of Pat and father of Diane, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret and Peter, and adored grandad of Nicholas, Kathryn and Elise. Private family cremation. Memorial Service at Oakham School Chapel to be announced in the New Year.

YOUNG - On December 2nd, peacefully, at Huntington House, Hindhead, Helen Tregoning, formerly of Broadcroft, Headley, near Bordon. Funeral service, all Saints, Headley, on Wednesday December 9th at 2.pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Ockenden Venture, C/O Gould and Chapman ltd. Grayshott, Hindhead, Surrey.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

BRAUND - A Memorial Service for David Braund, musician, will be held at St. James-the-Less Church, Vauxhall Bridge Road at 3.30pm on Saturday, December 12th 1987; enquires maybe made on 01 630 5750.

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE

JACKSON - A Service in the memory of Dr. Margaret C.N. Jackson, M.B.B.S., F.R.C.O.G., will be held at 3 pm on Friday 18th December at the Church of the Holy Cross, Crediton.

RICE - Nicholas Albin, 5th December 1984, loving father to Hannah, Catherine, Angela. Deeply loved, sadly missed.

ROWLANDS - Bryan Cleveland F.R.C.S. 3/12/86. Remembering always with deep affection.

SMYTH - Dean George Harvey. Classical scholar, Ardingly College. After much suffering he is never more than a thought away, until we meet again. GS.

WHYTE-ROBERT - McFadzean. In ever loving memory 18th December 1983. LW.

Services tomorrow

Second Sunday in Advent

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; *9.30 S Euch; 9.30 M (south quire aisle)*; 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Palestrina), Litany (Piccolo), Rev P G C Brett; 3.15 E, Responses (Holmes), Chichester Service (Walton), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons); 6.30 ES, Rev G Morgan.

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Missa brevis (Leighton), Litany (Loosemore), Rev I Ellery; 11.30 M, Jackson in D, Stanford in A, Responses *(Byrd); 2.15 St John Ambulance Carol Service*; 4 E, Stanford in G, For lo I raise up (Stanford), Mr P Cunningham.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Ashfield in F, Stanford in C, Rev G Routledge; 11.30 HC, Missa brevis (Palestrina), I look from afar (Palestrina); 3.15 E, Service for five voices (Weelkes), Blow out the trumpet in Sion (Peerson), Rev R Fenwick.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8, 11.40 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Byrd), Sumsion in B flat, The Lord gave the word (Handel), Canon I Bennett; 3 E, Gray in B flat, Blessed be the God and Father (Wesley), Canon C Semper; 5.55 Organ recital; 6.30 ES, The Dean.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi munera (Palestrina), Up awake from every steeple (Praetorius), Saviour eternal (Plainsong), Very Rev D L Edwards; 3 E, The Fourth Service (Batten), Thy word is a lantern (Purcell), Canon G Parrott; 7.30 Crisis at Christmas Carol Service, J Pardoe.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 SM, Asperges me (Plainsong), Missa brevis (Palestrina), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Passacaglia (Bach); 3.30 V & B, Magnificat octavi toni (Lassus), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Sonata No 4 (Mendelssohn).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10, 12.15, 6 LM; 11 HM, Mass La, Sol, Fa, Re, Ut (MacCartby), Motet: Veni Domine (Moreira), Very Rev J P Pannett.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St. James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 S Euch, Mass in Five Parts (Byrd), Canon J D Treadgold.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11.15 S Euch, Short Service (Byrd), Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Rev J R White.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich, SE10: 11 Euch, God is a spirit (Bennett), Teach me O Lord (Attwood), The Chaplain.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 S Euch, Coldstream Guards, The Chaplain.

GRAY'S INN CHAPEL: 8.30 HC, Canon E James.

LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL: 11.30 MP, Ave verum (Elgar), Rev F V A Boyse.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 9.15 HC; 11 M, Short Service (Byrd), Behold the hour cometh (Tomkins), The Chaplain.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP & HC, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), *Responses (Reading)*, Harris in A, Dyson in F, Thou O Lord God art the thing that I long for (Wesley), The Master.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Ireland in C, Jesu dulcis memoria (Victoria), Rev J Blease; 3.30, Teach me O Lord (Attwood), Howells in G, The word is a lantern (Purcell).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 S Euch, Canon S Van Culin.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8, 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes), Rev W H Taylor; 6 E & B, The Short Service (Byrd), Hosanna to the Son of David (Gibbons), Canon D J Burgess.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 9.30 HC; 11 Church Family C, Rev R *Bewes; 6.30 Rev J Stott*.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Old Church Street, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 Parish C, Rev J H L Cross; 6 E, Preb L Thomson.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 8 HC; 11 Parish C, Rev S Acland.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa in Honorem Sancti Dominici (Rubbra), A Spotless Rose (Howells), *Adam lay bounden (Ord)*, Rev A W Marks.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 8.30 HC (1662); 10.30 HC (ASB), Rev J A K Millar; 6.30 ES, Rev N G P Gumbel.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30, 12.05 HC; 11 Carol Service, Rev M Israel.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.30, 12.10 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Rev K L Yates.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC4: 9 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Iste Confessor (Palestrina), Sicut Cervus (Palestrina), The Rector; 6.30 E, Short Service (Aylward), Lord how long wilt thou be angry (Purcell).

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 M & Euch, Jackson in G; 6.30 Handel's *Messiah, part 1*, Canon J Oates.

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens, SW5: 10 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa Angelica, Drop down ye heavens, Canon A J Prescott; 6 E & B.

ST CYPRIAN'S, Clarence Gate, NW1: 8 LM; 10.30 M; 11 HM, *Fr D White*.

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Parish C; 6.30 E.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Whitlock in G, Here O my Lord (Whitlock), The Rector.

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8, 12, 7.15 HC; 11 MP, Rev G C Taylor; *6.30 EP*, Rev P J Galloway.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 11.30 Glass Sellers' Annual Service, Rt Rev K Woollcombe.

ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC; 11 MP, Rev M Bunker; 6.30 EP, Rev M Parker.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 *HC; 11 S Euch; 6 EP*.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, The spirit of the Lord (Elgar), *Mass of the quiet hour (Oldroyd)*; 6 Christingle.

ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC; 10 Parish Euch, Rev T Harkin; 6.30 Evening worship, Rev T Birchard.

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish C; 11 S Euch, Plainsong, Short Servcie (Batten), Hosanna to the Son of David (Weelkes); 6.30 E, Rev Andrew Walker.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 12.15 S Euch, Byrd in three voices, Almighty God (Ford), *Rev A Phillips*; 6.30 E, Lord for thy tender mercies' sake (Farrant), Rev D R Watson.

ST MARK'S, Regent's Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family C; 11 S Euch, Rejoice in the Lord away (Anon), Rev T D Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Canon A Harvey.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.45 Euch, Rev S Roberts; 11.30 MP, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese Carol Service, Rev Rinson Lin; 4.30 E; 6.30 EP, Rev P Chester.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Rev J Brownsell; 11.15 M, *Rev Sister Gerd*; 6.30 E, The Vicar.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8, 11 HC, Missa bel amfitrit altera (Lassus), Hymn to the Virgin (Britten), Miss V Makin; 6.30 Ministry of Healing, Laying on of hands, Rev H Booth.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 11 Family Service, Rev D C L Prior; 7.30 ES & HC, Rev J Crossley.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Euch, Drop down ye heavens (Lloyd), O quam gloriosum (Victoria), I sing of a maiden (Berkeley).

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: *Due to fire damage, services are taking place in St Peter's Primary School, Lower Belgrave St*: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Mass; 11 SM, Missa in illo tempore (Monteverdi), Remember not hard our offences (Purcell), Rev D B Tillyer.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 11 MP, Williams in G, He watched over Israel (Mendelssohn), Rev C May; 6.30 E, Merrill in E, O come let us sing unto the Lord (Britten), Preb J Pearce.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9, LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Britten), Fr C Colven; 6 E & B, Fr R Browne.

THE ANNUNCIATION, Bryanston Street, W1: 11 SM, Missa Dulcis memoria (Lassus), Ecce concipies (Handl); 6 LM & B.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev W A Cairns.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 HC, Rev K G Hughes.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Cantite tuba in Sion (Guererro).

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 12.30, 4.30, 7 LM; 11 HM, Mass Trahe me post te (Victoria), Cantie tuba (Palestrina); 3.30 V, Ecce concipes (Handl).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 SM, Missa brevis (Nystedt), Alma Redemptoris (*Palestrina*).

OUR LADY OF VICTORIES, Kensington High Street, W8: 8, 9, 10, 12.30, 6.30 LM; 11.15 SM, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Beati viscera (Byrd), Bogoroditse Djevo (Rachmaninov).

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, W1: 11 Rev Ron F Allison.

CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH, King's Road, SW3: 11 Circuit Worship Group; 6 HC, Rev M Braddy.

HINDE STREET *METHODIST* CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev L Griffiths; 6.30 Rev K Howcroft.

KENSINGTON URC, Allen Street, W8: 11, 6.30 Rev P Morgan.

REGENT SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN URC, Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 Rev K Swaine; 6.30 Mrs J P Crawshaw.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 HC; 7 *Advent Carols and Lessons*.

ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 Rev A McLellan.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 11 Rev R C Gibbins.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev R Tudor

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11, 6.30 Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

Anniversaries

Today

BIRTHS: Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford, statesman, London, 1661; Martin van Buren, 8th president of the USA 1837-41, Kinderhook, New York, 1782; Christina Rossetti, poet, London, 1830; Josef Pilsudski, chief of state Poland 1918-22, prime minister 1926-28, 1930, Zulow, Lithuania, 1867; Walt Disney, Chicago, 1901.

DEATHS: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Vienna, 1791; Alexandre Dumas, *père*, Puys, France, 1870; Claude Monet, Giverny, France, 1926.

Prohibition was repealed in the US, 1933.

Tomorrow

BIRTHS: Henry VI, reigned 1422-61, 1470-71, Windsor, 1421; *Warren Hastings*, first governor-general of India, Churchill, Oxfordshire, 1732; Joseph Gay-Lussac, chemist, St Léonard, France, 1778; Sir Osbert Sitwell, writer, London, 1892.

DEATHS: Anthony Trollope, London, 1882; Jean Louis Blanc, socialist, Cannes, 1882.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROUS patron of the arts sought by 2 young male concert pianists with international career as Duo. Studio accomm. required for pianos, and as London base during UK visits. Suggestions welcomed. Tel 01-654 7330

HILARY HOOK will attend the Marlborough Fair in the Town Hall tomorrow from 11.30 am to 1 pm to sign copies of his book Home From The Hill. Tel: 0672 54074

JAMES ROGERS will be showing his recommendations for Christmas wines at the Barnes Wine Shop tomorrow from 10am-5pm Tel: 01 878 8643.

LAL- On November 23rd, in New Delhi Colonel Pyare Lal, Founder custodian of India's Defence College and United Services Institute. Oxford graduate, served British Army World War II, 1946 in charge of Indian armed forces public relations U.K. Returned India after Independence.

RESEARCHER would like to talk to anyone in the city who has experienced stress at work (and spouses). In strictest confidence. Reply to BOX E41.

SCORPIO - Cri de coeur to be Elizabeth and come home. R.S.V.P. desperate Myosotis.

SHASSLES. The exhibition of his work + Aldin + Edwards etc. Closes tomorrow in our shop. The Marlborough Sporting Gallery and Book Shop, 6 Kingsbury Street, Marlborough, Wiltshire 0672 54074. Tel. for catalogue.

UNWANTED and Abandoned Dogs Saved and Cared for. Homes found with great discrimination. None destroyed. Dogs saved countrywide. Totally rational literature available on request. Please help by sending a donation. Christmas Cards available, relating to dogs homed. Pine Ridge Dog Sanctuary, Priory Road, Ascot, Berkshire, SL5 8RJ. Registered Charity.

BIRTHDAYS

ALISON Elaine Warburton is 21 on Sunday, congratulations!!! From Nicholas, Mum and Dad.

SERVICES

A. E. DAVIS, Pawnbrokers and Jewellers for more than 60 years purchase outright or lend money on jewellery & silverware. 89 Queensway, Bayswater. 229 2777 (Pawnbroking) 18 Brook St, New Bond St, W1. 629 1053 (Purchase)

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FRIENDSHIP, Love or Marriage. All ages, areas. Dateline, Dept (Q16) 23 Abingdon Road, London W8. Tel: 01-938 1011.

SHIRT POINT Collects shirts daily from your City office and returns them beautifully laundered 48 hrs later. Call us now on 01 378 1058.

WHEN in London rent a video/TV by day, week, month. TOPS TV Hewlett Hse, Havelock Terr SW8. 01 720 4469

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£ £ 50,000 CASH for Xmas. We have the money to spend for good silver items, jewellery, paintings, and good antique furniture. Tel: 01-946 7683 (day) 01-789 0471 (eves)

ALL CROCODILE articles, old leather luggage, trunks etc. wanted. Tel: 01-229 9618.(T)

FERRARI - Wanted by private collector. Absolutely any condition or parts. Tel 0652 57603 evenings.

PRIVATE investor seeks to purchase property futures in major schemes in Dock*lands and other prime* London areas. Substantial funds available, and confidentiality assured. Reply to BOX E54.

SKELETON (human) for Charing Cross Medical Student. Good condition. Tel: 01 643 1503.

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ALL TICKETS Phantom, Les Mis, all theatres & major pop shows, rugby inter. *CC. accepted: 925-0085 / 930 0800.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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during shop hours

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MEXICAN - colonial style dining table, with 8 chairs and sideboard. Exclusive white cast iron garden furniture. Swedish Dux sofa and armchair. Swedish solid pine table with 6 chairs. Zanussi fridge. Hotpoint vacuum cleaner. Black & Decker lawn mower. BMX as new. Offers Call: 01-748 8772

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SOLID GOLD - 14 carat Mark Cross pen and pencil in case. Unused gift, currently costs £1,300. Offers invited. Tel: 01-730 5439.

STROHMENGER - BABY GRAND 5ft 2, satinwood, elegant fluted legs, beautiful condition, lovely tone. £2,250 Tel: (08926) 4851

TELEPHONE BOXES for sale. Original red cast iron kiosks. Tel: 01-935 1857 or *0860 515014*.

THE PIANO WORKSHOP for an excellent selection of new and restored pianos at very competitive prices. Hire with option from £20 pm. Free catalogue. 30A Highgate Road, NW5 1NS. 01-267 7671

THE TIMES 1795-1986. Other titles avail. Hand bound ready for presentation - also 'Sundays' £13.50. Remember When. 01-688 6323/6324.

TICKETS Phantom, Les Mis, Cats. Theatres and all sporting events. Credit cards. Tel:01-225 1338/9.

VICTORIAN Brass/Iron bed. Private collection from abroad from £450-900 for half-tester. Mother-of-Pearl inlay. 01 455 8548 leave name/no. view London early December.

PIANO German Boudoir Grand. Built c.1900. Mahogany case, excellent playing order. Offers over £1,000. Tel: 01 602 3166 PW

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

CONSIDERATE Retired cultured widower living Sussex Coast and French Riviera seeks cheerful optimistic lady for lasting relationship (whole foods). Reply to BOX D65.

COUNTY INTRODUCTIONS has personable gentlemen who are seeking marriage and family to suitable ladies residing Cotswolds. Tel: 0752 265510.

ELAINE ROBINSON *Please call Derek again at same number. Apologise for* complete cross wires.

HELENA INTERNATIONAL Are you seeking a lasting relationship? Ours is a very personal and completely confidential service arranging carefully assessed introductions between individuals of the highest calibre...For full details tel 01-409 2913. Helena International, VIP Introductions, 17 *Hill St*, Mayfair, London, W1X 7FB.

ONE IN A MILLION Distinguished Scandinavian gentleman, Chairman of International Company (London based and with home also in South of France) seeks strikingly attractive lady (32-44) with zest for life, who enjoys travelling, very stylish, elegant, refined, cultured, and with an ambition for luxury and refinement - as travelling companion and hostess, in connection with international negotiations and cultural excursions... A certain artistic flair and intellectual interests would be appreciated together with a good knowledge of foreign languages. A sense of humour, warm sensuality, intelligence and imagination would *in no way* represent an obstacle to this mutually rewarding relationship *in every respect*. *Write* in strictest confidence, enclosing photo to BOX B24.

SATURDAY RENDEZVOUS

SELECT FRIENDS, Exclusive introductions for the unattached. 58 Maddox Street, London W1. Tel 01 493 9937

SINGLE? *Meet prof single people 20-55* London and Home Counties with The Social Connection. Houseparties, social events, holidays. Tel: (0990) 27568.

TIMES NEWSPAPERS LTD. reserves the right to refuse any advertisement put forward for publication in these columns. The use of a Box number is recommended when advertising. Before replying to any advertisement in these columns, please take all normal precautionary measures, as Times Newspapers Ltd. cannot be held responsible for any action or loss resulting from an advertisement carried in these columns.

VERY attractive - glamorous and intelligent, yet down-to-earth green-eyed blonde (37) seeks handsome, unconventional but solid, confident, non-smoking man, who has a streak of the devil in him whilst being a lover of the arts and having a zest for life and living - with a super sense of humour - to enjoy life's adventures and to form a close, equal - secure relationship/marriage. Written applications only, photo appreciated. (please quote ref D056) Helena International, VIP Introductions, 17 Hill Street, Mayfair, London, W1X 7FB.

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AMAZING flat Parsons Green Fulham o/r sunny roof gdn & BBQ unusually furn *£65pw excl. Ref* 736 1911 all day

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SW2 - 3 bed hse, 2 prof fems/couple required to share. Call Colette 01 261 0388 or eves 01 403 0652.

W2 2 *prof. M/F, N/S, double rooms large house, GCH, Nr tube £160 pcm excl.* Tel 01 821 2430 Day

WANDSWORTH Minutes from train station. *Prof/student m/f, n/s*, to share with 2 others in 'homey atmosphere'. O/r. £54 pw excl. Tel: 01-870 5877 after 6 pm.

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0% COMMISSION Foxtons new residential lettings office open 9am - 9pm weekdays, 10am - 5pm weekends and bank holidays at 188 Brompton Road, SW3 01 225 2065. Please call for details of the launch offering 0% commission.

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CHELSEA Knightsbridge, Belgravia, Pimlico, Westminster. Luxury houses & flats available for long or short lets. Please ring for current list. Coates, 69 Buckingham Palace Rd, SW1. 01-828 8251.

CHELSEA Spacious luxury balcony flat. Double bedroom, reception, lifts, porters. Newly refurbished. 01 622 5825

CHELSEA Beautiful listed house near Sloane Square. Master suite double and single beds, 2 bathrooms, 3 receptions, luxuriously furnished. £500pw. Tel: 01 352 8038.

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REFINED Experienced french couple cook-butler, speak english, spanish. Seeks position in sophisticated home in Europe, preference Southern Spain. Write Accrisio, Calle Manuel Machado, 71 Calahonda 18730, Granada, Spain or call (58) 62 30 98.

LEGAL NOTICES

No C06600 of 1987
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF
LM (MONEYBROKERS) LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition was on the 10th November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company by the sum of £9,524,000.

And Notice is Further Given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of December 1987.
Ashurst Morris Crisp,
Broadgate House
7 Eldon Street.
London, EC2M 7HD
Ref: MCE/L8600021
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006401 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF
LONDON SECURITIES PLC
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 6th day of November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of capital of the above named Company from £15,179,996.24 to £11,321,321.00.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London, WC2A 2LL, on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder or the said *Company desiring to oppose the making of* an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of December 1987
BLYTH DUTTON,
8/9 *Lincoln's Inn Fields*.
London,
WC2A 3DW.
Ref: 4/JW
Solicitors for the above named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006775 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF FRIEND & FALCKE LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 20th November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company by the sum of £3,774,500.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Gibson, at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making or an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 3rd day of December 1987
RAYNER, DE WOLFE
31 Southampton Row,
London WC1B 5HJ.
Ref: ROS/60369.
Solicitors for the above-named Company

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 00 6616 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF
THE TREND GROUP LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 13th November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above named Company by the sum of £1,171,816 to £2,135,373.46.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable *Mr Justice* Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of *an Order* for the confirmation of the said reduction of Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 5th day of December 1987
Freshfields (IT/IDC/6436LL), Walden House, 17-24 Cathedral Place, London EC4M 7JA. Solicitors for the above-named Company.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006547 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF *PEIRCE*
LESLIE & COMPANY LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 11th day of November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £600,000 to £56,667 by returning capital which is in excess of the wants of the Company.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr. Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

ANY creditor or shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the *time of hearing in person or by counsel* for that purpose. A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any person requiring the same by the under-mentioned solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day of October 1987
Waltons & Morse
Plantation House,
31-35 Fenchurch Street,
London EC3M 3NN.
Solicitors for the above-named Company
DKR72

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006811 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF AREGON
GROUP LIMITED
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF
THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 23rd November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above named Company from £10,000,000 to £3,235,070.40.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

DATED this 5th day of December 1987
Radcliffes & Co
10 Little College Street
Westminster, SW1P 3SJ.
Ref: V/CBJ.
Solicitors for the above named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006682 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF BLACKS
LEISURE GROUP plc
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE is hereby given that a Petition was on the 17th November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of (a) the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £17,650,000 to £13,470,104.50 and (b) the cancellation of the Share Premium Account of the said Company as at the 14th October 1987.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before The Honourable Mr Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2, on Monday the 14th December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital and cancellation of Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requesting the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 3rd day of December 1987
NORTON ROSE, BOTTERELL & ROCHE.
Kempson House,
Camomile Street,
London EC3A 7AN
Solicitors for the said Company

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
NO. 006960 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF EAGIL
TRUST COMPANY LIMITED
AND
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

Notice is hereby given that a PETITION was on the 30th November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the CONFIRMATION of REDUCTION of the CAPITAL of the above-named Company from £5,000,000 to £3,168,360.

And Notice is further given that the said *Petition is directed to be heard before the* Honourable Mr Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Monday the 21st day of December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said Reduction of Capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel *for that purpose*.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 3rd day of December 1987
STEPHENSON HARWOOD
One St Paul's Churchyard
LONDON EC4M 8SH
Solicitors for the above-named Company

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
No. 006686 of 1987
IN THE MATTER OF SINGER
& FRIEDLANDER GROUP PLC
-and-
IN THE MATTER OF THE
COMPANIES ACT 1985

Notice is Hereby Given that a Petition was on the 17th November 1987 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the Share Premium Account of the above-named Company by £36,100,000

And Notice is Further Given that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Honourable Mr Justice Peter Gibson at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2 on Monday the 14th day of December 1987.

Any Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of the Share Premium Account should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the under-mentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated this 5th day *of* November 1987
Ashurst Morris Crisp
Broadgate House,
7 Eldon Street,
London,
EC2M 7HD.
Solicitor for the said Company

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased person's whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified: after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

HAMM Christine Jennifer of 4 Hawthorn Avenue, Palmers Green, London, N.13 died on 12th December 1986. Particulars to Martin Shepherd & Co., Solicitors of *314 High Road, Tottenham, London, N15* 4BY, before 8th February, 1988.

FLANAGAN Alice Winifred of 124 Fairbridge Road, N.19, died on 6th October, 1987. Particulars to LEMON & PARTNERS Solicitors of 46 Hertford Street, London W1Y 7TF, before 8th February, 1988.

FRADGLEY Mrs. Evelyn Adele Mary of Flat 1, 88 Ebury Street, London SW1 died on 21st *June*, 1987. Particulars to BEATTIE & CO. Solicitors of 1 Raymond Buildings Gray's Inn, London WC1R 5BH, before 8th *February* 1988.

RE: HARRY GEORGE *DECEASED*
PURSUANT TO THE TRUSTEE ACT 1925

NOTICE is hereby given that any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of Harry George deceased late of 15 *Ashbourne Road, Eccles in the County of* Greater Manchester who died on the 13th day of July 1987, intestate and in whose estate letters of administration will be applied for to the Manchester District Probate Registry by Maureen Fisher the Administratrix the said Claimant is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the undersigned, the Solicitor for the said Administratrix on or before the 10th day of February 1988, after which date the Administratrix will proceed to distribute the assets of the said Deceased amongst the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which she shall then have had notice.

Dated this 1st day of December 1987
Smiths, 118 Church Street, *Eccles*, Manchester M30 OLS.
Solicitors for the said Administratrix.

TRUSTEE ACT 1925 SECTION 27

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 27 of the Trustee Act 1925 that any person having a claim against or an interest in the Estate of MARY ELIZABETH GLENN OTHERWISE KNOWN AS LIBBY GLENN deceased late of Flat 1, 43 Onslow Square, London SW7 and who died on teh 24th day of October 1986 is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his *or her claim or interest to Wright Webb* Syrett, 10 Soho Square, London W1V 6EE quoting reference GP and to send such particulars not later than (two months after the appearance of the Notice) after which date the Personal Representative will distribute the Estate among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice and will not as regards the property so distributed be liable to any person of whose claim they shall not then have had notice.

ENTERTAINMENTS

EXHIBITIONS

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WITH ORCHESTRA
Conducted by S Stroman
December 8th at 7pm
At the American Church in London
performing
GLORIA - VIVALDI
FANTASIA ON CHRISTMAS CAROLS - V WILLIAMS
THE SNOWMAN - S STROMAN
soloists
Pamela Kuhn (Soprano)
Julie Gossage (Soprano)
Peter Snipp (Baritone)
Free

LONDON WELSH CHORALE Westminster Chamber Orchestra, Cond. Kenneth Bowen, HANDEL'S MESSIAH, St James's, Piccadilly, Dec 12th 7.30. Tickets £4 at door.

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM S 836 3161 CC 240 5258. ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. Ton't & Wed 7.30 The Barber of Seville.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 240 1066/1911. Stdby info 836 6903. S CC. 65 amphi seats avail on the day. Today 2.00, Mon 7.30 THE ROYAL BALLET Giselle. Ballet casting info 01 240 9815. Ton't 8.00 THE ROYAL OPERA Tosca.

SADLER'S WELLS 278 8916 First Call CC 24 hr 7 day 240 7200 Final Perf 7.30 pm *LONDON CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE* Ima Vep/ and do they do / World Premiere of Maybe Tomorrow. Please see Theatre Section.

THEATRES

ADELPHI 836 7611 or 240 7913 /4 CC 741 9999/ 836 7358/ 379 4444 Grp Sales 930 6123 First Call 24hr cc 240 7200 (no bkg fee) NOW BOOKING TO APRIL 2
ME AND MY GIRL
THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL
Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00
"THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" S Express

ALBERY 836 3878 cc 379 6565/ 379 4444 & 741 9999. Groups 836 3962
"IN THE BEST TRADITION OF SPITTING IMAGE AND MONTY PYTHON" Gdn
JOHN SESSIONS'
THE LIFE OF NAPOLEON
directed by Kenneth Branagh
"VERY, VERY FUNNY" Times
Tonight 5 & 8.30
LAST 2 PERFS TODAY

APOLLO 437 2663 CC 434 3598 CC with bkg fee First Call 24hr/7days 240 7200/CCTB 741 9999/Open All Hours 379 4444 Group Sales 930 6123
"NICELY NERVE-RACKED EVENING" E.Shorter
DINSDALE LANDEN
CAROL DRINKWATER
and JEREMY BULLOCH in
DANGEROUS OBSESSION
Gripping new thriller by N J Crisp
"Powerfully applies the tricks of suspense" Times
"HOLDS YOUR NERVES AT GUNPOINT...TENSION JUNKIES WON'T BE DISAPPOINTED" D. Mail
Eves 8pm, Sat 5.30 & 8.30, Mats Thu 3.00pm
EXTRA PERF 24 DEC at 3.00

ALBERY 836 3878 cc 379 6565 741 9999 (no bkg fee) 379 4444 240 7200 Groups 836 3962
NICHOLAS LYNDHURST
in Larry Shue's New Comedy
THE FOREIGNER
Eves 8 Mats Thurs & Sat 5
Previews Dec 12. Opens Dec 16.

ALDWYCH 01 836 6404/0641 cc 379 6233/741 9999 First call 240 7200 (bkg fee) Eves 7.30, Saturday 5 & 8.30
FOR A LIMITED SEASON ONLY
MICHAEL GAMBON
BEST ACTOR OF THE YEAR
Standard Drama Award
in National Theatre production of
A VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE
By Arthur Miller
Directed by Alan Ayckbourn

AMBASSADORS 01-836 6111/2 cc 836 1171. First Call (24 hrs/7 days) 240 7200 (bkg fee). Eves 7.30, Wed mat 3, Sat 4 & 8
Royal Shakespeare Company's
LES LIAISONS DANGEREUSES
Winner of 4 "BEST PLAY" awards. Some tickets avail Mats
NOW BOOKING TO JUNE '88

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 828 8665 CC 630 6262 Party Bkgs 828 6188 cc 1st Call 240 7200 Open All Hours 379 4444/ K Prowse 741 9999 Grps 930 6123. Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.0
"AMAZING" Times
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
SOME SEATS AVAIL THIS WEEK
OAP's £5 on Tues mats
NOW BOOKING TO MARCH '88

BARBICAN THEATRE
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY THIS CHRISTMAS THE RSC GOES 'OVER THE RAINBOW'!
THE WIZARD OF OZ
12 Dec-9 Jan, 18-23 Jan, 8-13 & 22-27 Feb. 01.638 8891/(Groups 930 6123)

BARBICAN THEATRE 01 638 8891 cc (Mon-Sun 10am-8pm) ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
TODAY 2.0 & 7.30, rtns 11 Jan.
THE WINTER'S TALE
"Highly recommended" S.Times
A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM rtns 15 Jan.
THE PIT Today 2.0 & 7.30, rtns 18 Dec. OLD YEAR'S EVE by Peter Speyer. SPECULATORS by Tony Marchant from 9 Dec. DEATHWATCH/THE MAIDS rtns 11 Jan.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE Earlham St. WC2 Box Office & CC 01-379 5299 (NO BKG FEE), CC 1st Call 24hr/7 day 240 7200 (NO BKG FEE), CCTB 741 9999 (NO BKG FEE) & Open All Hrs 379 4444 (BKG FEE). Group Sales 930 6123
LULU GEORGE COLE
JAN HARVEY in the
"...DELIGHTFULLY ZESTFUL PRODUCTION OF THE BROADWAY MUSICAL" D. Ex.
PETER PAN
"...A HISSING SUCCESS" Std.
"...ENTERTAINING TO ADULTS AND A TREAT FOR ADULTS-TO-BE" D. Tel.
Eves 7.30, Wed & Sat mats 2.30

COMEDY 01-930 2578/8778 CC 839 1438 CC (with bkg fee) 1st Call 240 7200/CCTB 741 9999/ Open All Hours 379 4444. Group Sales 01 930 6123.
"THIS IRRESISTIBLE SHOW" Tms
GROUCHO
"Frank Ferrante amazes" S.Tel
GROUCHO
"Les Marsden deliciously funny" Std
"TOP MARX FOR FUN" S.Exp
Ton't 5 & 8.
LAST 2 PERFS TODAY

COMEDY 01-930 2578/8778 cc 839 1438 & 741 9999 Group Sales 930 6123 From 8 Dec
"A BLAZING DUET OF A PLAY. REEVES AND SUCHET RAISE THE ROOF" Sun Times.
DAVID SUCHET SASKIA REEVES
"A Heart-Rending Love Story" Fin. Times
SEPARATION
directed by Michael Attenborough
"VERY FUNNY. KILL FOR A TICKET" Ms. London
Mon-Thu 8.0, Fri & Sat 6.0 & 8.45

COTTESLOE National Theatre 928 2252 Today 2.30 & 7.30, Mon 7.30 ENTERTAINING STRANGERS new play by David Edgar (Promenade perfs)

CRITERION S 930 3216 CC 379 6565/ 379 4444/741 9999. Groups 836 3962. Eves 8, Thur mat 2.30, Sat 5.30 & 8.30
"BRITISH FARCE AT ITS BEST" D Mail
The Theatre of Comedy Company
RALPH BATES BRIAN MURPHY
LIONEL JEFFRIES
RUN FOR YOUR WIFE!
LONDON'S LONGEST RUNNING COMEDY
Written and directed by
RAY COONEY
Over 1,900 side-splitting perfs
"SHOULD RUN FOR LIFE" S. Ex

DOMINION THEATRE 580 8845 580 9562. Tel CC bkgs FIRST CALL 24hr 7 day 836 2428 NO BKG FEE CC 379 4444 or 741 9999 (no bkg fee) Grps 930 6123
DAVE CLARK'S
TIME
THE ULTIMATE EXPERIENCE
THE PORTRAYAL OF 'AKASH'
BY
LAURENCE OLIVIER
Mon-Fri 7.30 Sat 4 & 8.15
SPECIAL CONCESSIONS at £7 all perfs except Fri & Sat eves for OAP's, UB40's, students & under 16's avail from 3pm (Sat from 12 noon)
SEATS AVAIL FOR PERF TON'T
NOW BOOKING TO APRIL
Extra Xmas Matinee 22 Dec at 3

DONMAR WAREHOUSE 240 8230 cc 379 6565/4444 Ends Ton't CHEEK BY JOWL presents MACBETH Eves 7.30. Mats Thur 2.30, Sat 3.00 From Tue, Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri Sat 6 & 8.45pm. Dec 10 at 7pm
BREL

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL Box Office & CC 01-836 8108, 01-240 9066/7. First Call 24hr 7 day cc bkgs on 01 240 7200 (no bkg fee). Open All Hours 01 379 4444 (no bkg fee)
David Merrick's
42ND STREET
A SHOW FOR ALL THE FAMILY
Winner of all the best Musical Awards for 1984
voted
BEST MUSICAL
STANDARD DRAMA AWARDS
voted
BEST MUSICAL
LAURENCE OLIVIER AWARD
voted
BEST MUSICAL
PLAYS & PLAYERS
LONDON THEATRE CRITICS AWARD
Evgs 8.0 Mats Wed 3.0, Sat 5.0 & 8.30, Xmas Mat Dec 21 at 3pm in aid of Standard Tree Appeal. Reduced price mat Weds, Students and OAP's standby. Group Sales 930 6123
4TH GREAT YEAR

DUKE OF YORKS 836 5122 cc 836 9837 379 4444 240 7200 741 9999 Grps 930 6123
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
AND THEN THERE WERE NONE
"QUITE IRRESISTIBLE" D Mir
"A STUNNINGLY ORIGINAL PLOT" D Tel. "A TRUE COMEDY THRILLER" LBC
Eves 8 Mats Thu 3 Sat 5
EXTRA PERF DEC 28 AT 5PM

FORTUNE THEATRE 836 2238 TESTAMENT OF YOUTH. MATINEES ONLY "The fantastic skill of Rohan McCullough brought tears flowing" - What's On. Last perf today.

FORTUNE THEATRE 836 2238 cc 741 9999 Evgs Mon-Fri 8pm Sat 8.30 Mat Thurs at 3pm/Sat 5pm
NUNSENSE
THE FUNNY NUNNY MUSICAL
'It will run for years' D Tel
'Wacky & Totally Entertaining' ILR 'Roaring Success... Irresistible...Perfect Taste' Stage
'A Great Big Embrace of Fun...' *Terrific Performances*' BBC
Bkg Fee 1st Call 240 7200
Open All Hours 379 4444 Grp Sales 930 6123
Over 250 Perfs. Bkg to Jan 88

GARRICK 379 6107 cc 379 4444 (24hr no bkg fee), 741 9999 (no bkg fee) 240 7200 (bkg fee)
WILLIAM GAUNT
ROWENA ROBERTS IAN TALBOT
WHEN DID YOU LAST SEE YOUR...TROUSERS?
by Ray Galton & John Antrobus
Eves 8, Mats Tues 3, Sat 5
OVER 250 PERFS!
THE NEW HIT COMEDY.
NOW BOOKING UNTIL MAY '88

GLOBE THEATRE 01 437 3667/ 741 9999. First Call 240 7200 (bkg fee).
MAGGIE SMITH
MARGARET TYZACK
in
LETTICE AND LOVAGE
a new comedy by
PETER SHAFFER
with
RICHARD PEARSON
directed by
MICHAEL BLAKEMORE
Mon-Sat 7.45 sharp, Sat Mat 3.00

GREENWICH THEATRE 01-858 7755, cc 01 853 3800 (no bkg fee) Evenings at 7.45, Mat Sat 2.30 (Dec 7 at 7.0) BELLS ARE RINGING The Comden & Green/Styne Musical.

HAMPSTEAD 722 9301 From 10 Dec BETWEEN EAST AND WEST by Richard Nelson.

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL Box Office & cc 01-930 9832
Previews from Dec 16
OPENS DEC 18 at 7.0
MICHAEL HORDERN IRENE WORTH
and MICHAEL DENISON
in
YOU NEVER CAN TELL
by Bernard Shaw
Directed by TOBY ROBERTSON
Evgs 7.30 Mats Weds & Sats 3.00
First Call 24hr 7-day cc bkgs 01-240 7200 (bkg fee) Open All Hours 01-379 4444 (bkg fee)
Group Sales 01-930 6123

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL Box Office & cc 01-930 9832
ALAN BATES
"AS SPELLBINDING AS EVER" Times."A DAZZLING PIECE OF ACTING" Gdn.
in
MELON
by
SIMON GRAY
"DEEPLY ADULT PLAY... TRAGICOMIC IN THE TRUE SENSE OF THE WORD" Sunday Times "BY TURNS SAVAGE AND HILARIOUS, DISTURBING, MOVING AND EVEN HORRIFIC" Sunday Telegraph
Directed by
CHRISTOPHER MORAHAN
Mon-Sat Evgs 8.00 Mats Sats 3.00
First Call 24 Hr 7 day cc bkgs 01-240 7200 (bkg fee). Open All Hours 01 379 4444 (bkg fee)
Group Sales 01 930 6123
LAST TWO WEEKS
MUST CLOSE DECEMBER 12

HER MAJESTYS Haymarket 839 2244 CC 24hr (bkg fee) 379 6131/240 7200
Group Sales 930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
DAVE WILLETTS
CLAIRE MOORE MICHAEL BALL
Rebecca Caine plays Christine at certain performances.
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
SOLD OUT TIL 1st JUNE

LONDON PALLADIUM 01-437 7373 Opens Dec. 21 at 7.00 Red. Price Prevs. from Dec. 16
TOMMY & BOBBY
CANNON BALL
with MARTI WEBB
Derek Griffiths Barbara Windsor
Cheryl Baker Peter Howitt
with
John Inman in the
Lavish New Production of
BABES IN THE WOOD
with Special Guest Star
ROD HULL & EMU
Major CC accepted. First Call 24 hr 7 day cc bkgs. 01-240 7200 Open All Hours 01-379 4444 CCTB 01-741 9999 (No bkg fee) Group Sales 01-930 6123 Special Party Concessions apply Box Office.

LYRIC HAMMERSMITH 01 741 2311. Eves 7.30pm Mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm. Charles Strouse's (author of ANNIE) new family musical LYLE. LYRIC STUDIO ATC in FAUSTUS. Eves 8pm. SOLD OUT.

LYRIC W1 437 3686/734 5166
"A Clowning Glory" Sun Exp.
RUSS ABBOT
ONE FOR THE ROAD
By Willy Russell
Mon-Fri 7.30 Sat 5.0 & 8.0 Mats Wed 3.0 1st Call 24 hr 7 day cc 240 7200. Open All Hours 379 4444 (Bkg Fee) CCTB 741 9999 (Not Bkg Fee) Grps 930 6123. From Jan 11 Evgs 7.30 Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30

LYTTELTON National Theatre 928 2252. Today 2.15 & 7.45, Mon 7.45 FATHERS & SONS a new play by Brian Friel, after Turgenev's novel. Mon 2.00 THE PIED PIPER.

MAYFAIR 01 629 3037
From Dec 14 to Jan 2
Twice daily 2.0 & 4.0
Weds & Sats 10.30, 2.0 & 4.0
SOOTY'S XMAS SHOW

MAYFAIR CC 629 3036 379 4444 Mon Thu 8 Fri & Sat 5.40 & 8.10
RICHARD TODD in
"The Best Thriller for years" S Mir
THE BUSINESS OF MURDER
"An unabashed winner" S Exp
"SENSATIONAL" Times
7TH THRILLING YEAR!

MERMAID THEATRE 01.236 5568/638 8891/741 9999
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY
Today 2.0 & 7.30. FINAL PERFS 9, 10 Dec. (Students £4.50 in adv)
SARCOPHAGUS
by Vladimir Gubaryev
'ON NO ACCOUNT TO BE MISSED' Observer
THE ROVER rtns Mon, Tues. Further perfs 11 Dec-16 Jan. First Call 240 7200 (Groups 930 6123).

NATIONAL THEATRE CC 01-928 2252 CC Agencies, bkg fee: 379 4444/240 7200/741 9999 See OLIVIER/LYTTELTON/ COTTESLOE. Cheap seats days of perfs from 10am.

NEW LONDON Drury Lane WC2 405 0072 CC OPEN ALL HOURS 379 4444. Tkts from W H Smith Travel Branches.
Eves 7.45 Tue & Sat 3.00 & 7.45
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER /T.S. ELIOT MUSICAL
CATS
Group Sales 01 930 6123 or 01 405 1567.
NOW BOOKING TO JUNE 88
Some Seats avail for extra Xmas Mats 21, 23, 29, 31 December.
No Perf Xmas Eve.

OLD VIC 928 7616 cc 261 1821 Eves 7.30, Wed Mats 2.30, Sats 4.0 & 7.45
"THE BEST MUSICAL IN LONDON" NY Post
Royal Shakespeare Company in
KISS ME KATE
with
JAMES SMILLIE NICHOLA McAULIFFE
TIM FLAVIN
"COLE PORTER'S GLORIOUS MUSICAL" D.Tele.
CC Nos (bkg fee) Open All Hours 379 4444/1st Call 240 7200/KP 741 9999. Grp Sales 930 6123

OLIVIER National Theatre 928 2252. Previews from ton't 6.00 COUNTRYMANIA trilogy by Carlo Goldoni in a version by Mike Alfreds.

PHOENIX THEATRE 240 9661 836 2294 cc 741 9999 379 4444 240 7200 (bkg fee)
ALBERT FINNEY
"Is Supreme" D.Mail
BOB PECK in
J J FARR
"A serious, entertaining play" D TH
"It's Gripping" S Times
by RONALD HARWOOD
Eves 8, Mats Thu & Sat 3

PICCADILLY 437 4506 CC 379 6565/4444 Open All Hours/ 741 9999.
"AN UNSTOPPABLE SUCCESS" D. Express
BLUES IN THE NIGHT
The glorious blues & jazz hit
"SUBLIME, THEATRICAL MAGIC" D. Mail
LOW PRICE SHOWS FRI & SAT 6.30
Mon-Thu 8, Fri & Sat 6.30 & 9

PALACE THEATRE 434 0909
CC OPEN ALL HOURS 379 4444
First Call 24Hr 7 Day cc 240 7200
Grp Sales 930 6123
"THE SHOW OF ALL SHOWS" Newsweek
Winner of 8 Tony Awards inc
BEST MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
THE MUSICAL SENSATION
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
"FIGHT TO GET A TICKET" LBC
NOW BOOKING TO SEPT 24 '88
Special Xmas Mats 23 24 29 Dec

PLAYHOUSE 839 4401, CC 240 7200/379 4444 (24 hrs bkg fee) & CC 741 9999 (bkg fee).
4 WEEKS ONLY!!
A Christmas Treat for all Ages
IAN McKELLEN
ACTING SHAKESPEARE
"Dazzling" Michael Billington
From 11 Dec Eves 8pm Fri & Sat 6.30 & 9pm (14 Dec 7pm). Tkts £5 - £14.50
ALL PROCEEDS TO LONDON LIGHTHOUSE AIDS HOSPICE

PRINCE EDWARD 734 8951 ALL tel cc bkgs FIRST CALL 24 hour 7 day on 836 3464 Grp Sales 930 6123. Mon-Sat 7.30 Mats Thurs & Sat 2.30
BEST MUSICAL 1986
Drama Magazine
CHESS
"A GRAND MASTER OF A SHOW" Newsweek
Now booking to July 88
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS

PRINCE OF WALES 839 5989
GEMMA CRAVEN EMILE BELCOURT
RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S
SOUTH PACIFIC
Previews from January 9.
Credit Cards 240 7200 (24hrs)
Group Sales 930 6123

PRINCE OF WALES 839 5987 First Call 24hr-7 day (BKG FEE) 240 7200, Grps 930 1940
ALLO ALLO
with the TV SHOW STARS
"IT'S ALL SAUCE AT THE CAFE OF LAUGHS" D. Exp
Eves 8.0, Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.40
Extra perfs Dec 23, 28 & 30 at 2.30. ONLY 5 MORE WEEKS!

ROYAL COURT S CC 730 1745. "An amazing play" Gdn. A LIE OF THE MIND by SAM SHEPARD. Eves. 7.30, Sat Mats 2.30.

ROYAL COURT UPSTAIRS 730 2554. Until 19 Dec Paines Plough - Belgrade Theatre, Coventry present THE WAY TO GO HOME by Rona Munro. Dir by Pip Broughton at 8.00 pm Sat Mats 4.00 pm.

ROYALTY 01 831 0660 CC 01 240 7300 (bkg fee) Until Jan 30. Today, Mon, Fri 2pm, 6.30pm Tues, Wed, Thurs 10.30am, 2pm
WINNIE THE POOH
by AA Milne.
Not suitable for children under 4 years old

SADLERS WELLS 278 8916 First Call CC 24 hr 7 day 240 7200 Whirligig Theatre in David Wood's THE SEE-SAW TREE From Tues - Sat 12 Dec Please see Opera/Ballet Section.

SAVOY THEATRE 836 8888, CC & Groups 379 6219, 836 0479/ 741 9999. First Call 240 7200 (bkg fee). Group Sales 930 6123
CHARLTON HESTON
"Undeniable Magnificence" Ind
GWEN WATFORD BENJAMIN WHITROW
and ROY KINNEAR
in the Chichester Festival Theatre production of
A MAN FOR ALL SEASONS
"This fine play" D.Mail
BY ROBERT BOLT
"Genuinely moving" Guardian
DIRECTED BY FRANK HAUSER
Eves 7.30, Mats Wed & Sats 2.30

ST MARTIN'S 01-836 1443. Special CC No. 379 4444. Evgs 8.0 Tues 2.45, Sat 5.0 and 8.0
36TH YEAR OF
AGATHA CHRISTIE'S
THE MOUSETRAP

Continued on page 37

☎ 01-481 1920

ENTERTAINMENTS

☎ 01-481 1920

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE

BELVEDERE RD LONDON SE1 8XX BOX OFFICE 10am-9pm 7 DAYS TEL 01-928 3191 CREDIT CARDS 01-928 8800 FIRST CALL 24HR 7 DAY CC 240 7200 (Bkg fee)

Open all day with free exhibitions and lunchtime music. Coffee Shops, Bookshop, Record Shop, Buffet, Bars and Riverside Café. Commuter Jazz Fridays evening from 5.15. Enjoy the magnificent view of Big Ben and Parliament.

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Saturday 5 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE GLORY OF CHRISTMAS** London Conc. Orch. Thomas Tallis Society Choir, Boys Choir King's House School, P. Sloma (con) S. Davis (sop) C Steele-Perkins (tpt) Wks by Handel, Bach, Gounod, Purcell, Clarke, Schubert, Franck, Carols for choir & audience. £4.50, £5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sunday 6 Dec 3.15 pm	**ALFRED BRENDEL** Schubert Cycle Six Moments Musicaux, D 780; Fantasy in C, D 760 (Wanderer). Sonata in C D 840; Sonata in A minor D 784. £3 £6 £8 £10 £12 £15 Ingpen and Williams (International) Ltd
Sunday 6 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** London Philharmonic Choir Sir Georg Solti (conductor) Margaret Price (soprano) Anne Gjevang (mezzo-soprano) Keith Lewis (tenor) John Tomlinson (bass) Handel Messiah RETURNS ONLY London Philharmonic Enterprises Ltd
Monday 7 Dec 7.30 pm	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Giuseppe Sinopoli (conductor) Mariko Senju (violin) Mendelssohn Violin Concerto in E minor Bruckner Symphony No 5 £2, £3.50, £5, £6, £7.50, £9, £10, £11.50, £14 Philharmonia Ltd
Tuesday 8 Dec 7.30 pm	**ALFRED BRENDEL** Schubert Cycle Sonata in A minor, D 845. Four Impromptus, D 899. Sonata in D, D 850 £3 £6 £8 £10 £12 £15 Ingpen and Williams (International) Ltd
Wednesday 9 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE ROYAL PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY** BBC Symphony Orchestra Eliahu Inbal (conductor) Mozart Symphony No 30 Bruckner Symphony No 3 (original 1873 version) Please note change of conductor. £3.50, £4.50, £6, £7.50, £9.50, £11.50, £13.50 The Royal Philharmonic Society
Thursday 10 Dec 7.30 pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** André Previn (conductor) Salvatore Accardo (violin) Brahms Tragic Overture. Sibelius Violin Concerto Brahms Symphony No 2 £4, £5.50, £7, £9, £12, £15.50, £20 RPO Ltd
Friday 11 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** Andrew Litton conductor Andrew Wilde piano NatWest Bank Classics for Pleasure Series Shostakovich Festival Overture Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini Rimsky-Korsakov Scheherazade All seats £4.75 (exc. choir £2) London Philharmonic Enterprises Ltd
Saturday 12 Dec 3.00 pm & 7.30 pm	**HOSPITALS' CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERTS** Massed Choirs from London Hospitals Charles Farncombe (cond) Nigel Kennedy (vln) Ian Curror (organ) Charles and Richard Fullbrook & Nigel Bates (timp & perc) 3 pm £3.50, £6 only. 7.30 pm RETURNS ONLY Malcolm Sargent Cancer Fund for Children
Sunday 13 Dec 3.15 pm	**ALFRED BRENDEL** (piano) Schubert Cycle Drei Klavierstücke D 946. Sonata in G, D 894. Four Impromptus D 935 £3 £6 £8 £10 £12 £15 Ingpen and Williams (International) Ltd
Sunday 13 Dec 7.30 pm	**CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE** Goldsmiths Choral Union Brian Wright (conductor) Clifford Benson, Antony Saunders (pianos) Christopher Bowers-Broadbent (organ) £2.75 £4.50 £6 £7.75 £9.75 Norman McCann International Artists Ltd
Monday 14 Dec 7.30 pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** André Previn (conductor) Jon Kimura Parker (piano) Vaughan Williams Fantasia on a theme of Thomas Tallis, Rachmaninov Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini, Vaughan Williams Symphony No 5 £4 £5.50 £7 £9 £12 £15.50 £20 RPO Ltd
Tuesday 15 Dec 7.30 pm	**ALFRED BRENDEL** (piano) Schubert Cycle Sonata in C minor D 958. Sonata in A, D 959. Sonata in B flat D 960 £3 £6 £8 £10 £12 £15 Ingpen and Williams (International) Ltd
Wednesday 16 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE LONDON PHILHARMONIC** London Philharmonic Choir Kurt Masur (cond) Edith Wiens (sop) Michael Jayston (Peer Gynt) Pamela Hunter (Anitra) Kodály Háry János. Grieg Peer Gynt — excerpts from the play with incidental music £10.90 £15 (only) London Philharmonic Enterprises Ltd
Thursday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** London Choral Society Philip Ledger, •Harry Bramma (conds) Stephen Roberts (bar) Prog incl Corelli Concerto Grosso (Christmas Night) •Britten A Ceremony of Carols. Honegger Christmas Cantata. Carols. £4 £5.50 £7 £9 £12 £15.50 £20 RPO Ltd
Fri & Sun 18 & 20 Dec. 7.30 & 3.15 pm	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Carlo Maria Giulini (conductor) Radu Lupu (piano) Schumann Overture Manfred. Piano Concerto. Symphony No. 3 (Rhenish) £2 £4 £6 £7 £9 £10 £12 £14 £16 Philharmonia Ltd

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Saturday 5 Dec 2 pm	**RIKKYO JAPANESE SCHOOL CONCERT** Programme of works for orchestra, chamber, brass-wind groups, quartet, piano duo & solo by Grieg, Sibelius, Rachmaninov, Bach, Beethoven, Weber, Haydn, Mozart, Chopin, Bizet, Liszt, Mendelssohn. Free tickets available from Box Office Rikkyo School in England
Saturday 5 Dec 7.45 pm	**KING OLIVER AND JELLY ROLL MORTON** Keith Nichols Red Hot Syncopators Back for a third time the music of two of the giants of jazz: Joe "King" Oliver and Ferdinand "Jelly Roll" Morton. £3 £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 Michael Webber Promotions
Sunday 6 Dec 7.45 pm	**NASH ENSEMBLE** M Collins (cl) B Wightman (bassoon) F Lloyd (horn) M. Crayford (vln) J. Williams (vln) R Chase (vla) C van Kampen (cel) R. Slatford (d-bass) R. Strauss/F. Hasenöhrl Till Eulenspiegel. Mozart Clarinet Quintet, K. 581, Schubert Octet. £2 £3 £4 £5, £6 Nash Concerts Society
Monday 7 Dec 7.45 pm	**GLYNDEBOURNE TOURING OPERA** The Electrification of the Soviet Union. The London Premiere of Glyndebourne's new opera by Nigel Osborne and words by Craig Raine following its hugely successful tour Elgar Howarth (con) Peter Sellars (dir) £5, £8, £10, £12.50, £15 Glyndebourne Touring Opera/SBB
Tuesday 8 Dec 1.10 pm	**FROM RUSSIA WITH LUNCH** Mark Lubotsky (violin) Boris Berman (piano) Schnittke Sonata No 1, Khachaturian Adagio for solo violin (Gayaneh). Prokofiev Sonata in D for violin and piano, Op 94a. £3 unres Inclusive lunchtime package £5.75 Students, OAPs, UB40 £1.50 South Bank Board/Seven Muses
Tuesday 8 Dec 7.45 pm	**KING'S COLLEGE SCHOOL CHOIR** The Wren Orchestra Brass Ensemble M Jenkins (con) A Opie (bar) L Wakeford (harp) Programme includes Carols arr. by Sir David Willcocks & music by Vaughan Williams, John Rutter & Robert Chilcott. Carols for audience participation RETURNS ONLY King's College School
Wednesday 9 Dec 7.45 pm	**LONDON MOZART PLAYERS** Jane Glover (conductor) Cristina Ortiz (piano) Music of Two Decades. Michael Haydn Symphony in D. Mozart Piano Concerto in G, K.453, David Matthews Serenade. Haydn Symphony No 89 Pre-concert interview 6.30 pm QEH, free admission by concert ticket £4, £6, £7.50 £8.50, £10 Haydn-Mozart Society
Thursday 10 Dec 7.45 pm	**BOURNEMOUTH SINFONIETTA** Roger Norrington (con) Anthony Rolfe Johnson (tenor) Schubert Overture in D, Britten Nocturne, Variations on a Theme of Frank Bridge, Schubert Symphony No 3 £3.50 £4.50 £5, £6.50 £7 Western Orchestral Society Ltd
Friday 11 Dec 7.45 pm	**INSTRUMENTAL QUINTET OF LONDON** S Milan (fl) C Thomas (harp) K Smietana (vln) G. Oppenheimer (vla) R Bailey (cel) Roussel Serenade Op 30 Beethoven Trio in G min, Robert Walker Serenade (first perf). Debussy Sonata, Mozart Flute Quartet in D, K.285, Jolivet Chant de Linos £2.50 £3.50, £4.50, £5.50, £6.50 Helen M. Sykes PR
Saturday 12 Dec 7.45 pm	**LONDON BACH SOCIETY: BACH CANTATA CYCLE** Steinitz Bach Players. Paul Steinitz (con) Buxtehude Alleluja! Bach Cantata, Ich bin in mir vergnügt BWV 204. Buxtehude Motet. Nichts soll uns Scheiden; Bach Cantata. Geschwinde, ihr wirbeln den Winde BWV 201 £4.50 £6.50 £8.50 £10 London Bach Soc/Steinitz Bach Players
Sunday 13 Dec 3 pm	**STONELEIGH YOUTH ORCHESTRA** Adrian Brown (conductor) Joanna Gruenberg (piano) Copland Suite, Billy the Kid. Grieg Piano Concerto. Brahms Symphony No 2 All seats £5 Students OAPs UB40 £2.50 Stoneleigh Youth Orchestra
Sunday 13 Dec 7.45 pm	**VILLA-LOBOS CENTENARY CONCERT** Serenata Chamber Ensemble, BBC Singers, Richard Pittman (cond) Villa-Lobos Chôros No. 4, Quartet, Choros No 3, Bendita Sabedoria, Nonet £4.50 £6 £8 £9 The Latin American Arts Association/BBC
Monday 14 Dec 7.45 pm	**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Jeffrey Tate (conductor) Nigel Kennedy (violin) Schoenberg Chamber Symphony No 2 Bruch Violin Concerto No 1, Mozart Symphony No 34 (with Minuet in C, K 409) £4.50 £6.50 £8.50 ECO and Music Society Ltd
Tuesday 15 Dec 7.45 pm	**ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE** John Lubbock (conductor) Richard Todd (horn) Schubert Symphony No 5, Strauss Horn Concerto No 1 Mendelssohn Overture, The Hebrides. Mozart Symphony No 40 Please note complete change of programme £3.50 £4.50 £5 £6.50, £7 Orchestra of St. John's Smith Sq.
Wednesday 16 Dec 1.10 pm	**GOLDEN RAVEL** Julian Jacobson (piano) A commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the composer's death. Jeux d'eau, Menuet antique, Menuet sur le nom d'Haydn, Valses nobles et sentimentales Le Tombeau de Couperin, Xenaida "a r" (Hommage à Maurice Ravel (first perf)) All seats £3 Kantor Concert Management
Wednesday 16 Dec 7.45 pm	**GOLDEN RAVEL** Elisabeth Perry (vln) Melissa Phelps (cel) Julian Jacobson (pno) Sonata for vln & pno Pièce en forme d'habanera for cel & pno Sonata for vln & cel, Sonata for vln & pno (oeuvre posthume); Piano Trio in A min. £3.50 £5 £6 £7 £8 Kantor Concert Management
Thursday 17 Dec 7.45 pm	**CAROLS FOR CHOIR AND AUDIENCE** London Concert Choir Donald Cashmore (cond) Jeanne Rubenstein (flute) Imogen Barford (harp) Andrew Lucas (organ) £3 £4.50 £5 £6 £7 £8 London Concert Choir
Friday 18 Dec 8.00 pm	**THE OYSTER BAND CHRISTMAS PARTY** The standard-bearers of British roots music, the Oyster Band fuse rock & roll, sharp contemporary comment & an innovative approach to folk music, most recently with Billy Bragg & the "Spycatcher" record. Special guests incl MARTIN CARTHY £5.50 £6.50 £7.50 Speakout
Tue/Thu/Sat. Dec 8/10/12 at 6.30, 1.00 3.30 pm	**AT THE HAYWARD GALLERY: MEXICAN MUSIC WITH THE ENDYMION ENSEMBLE** Three one-hour concerts of Mexican music to complement the Rivera murals which dominate the first room of the exhibition. Programmes include music by Carlos Chavez and Silvestre Revueltas. Info 01-921 0888 Admission £3 Students/OAPs/UB40 £1.50 The South Bank Board

PURCELL ROOM

Saturday 5 Dec 7.30 pm	**ANTHONY ALDRIDGE** New Directions. This concert has been CANCELLED Anthony Aldridge & Associates
Sunday 6 Dec 3.15 pm	**GERARD AND JEAN** Jean Phillips (piano) Gerard Benson (story-teller) Humperdinck Hansel and Gretel. Programme also includes Christmas Crackers and Gerard and Jean's Mummers Play All seats £3 Gerard Benson
Sunday 6 Dec 7.30 pm	**A CELEBRATION FOR THE SITWELLS** David Owen Norris (piano) Patricia Routledge (reader) Victoria Glendinning, Timothy West (speakers) Prog incl piano works by Liszt & Walton and readings of Sir Sacheverell Sitwell and Dame Edith Sitwell £6.50 £9 Park Lane Group
Monday 7 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE THODAY TRIO** Jill Thoday (vln) Vanessa Scott (sop) Clare Taylor (pno) Handel 2 German Arias, Schubert Son in G min D 408, Schumann Lieder. Mozart Trio, Poulenc Songs, Satie Songs. Seiber Folksongs. Bloch 2 Pieces. Falla 3 Popular Spanish songs £3 £4 £5 YML Management
Tuesday 8 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE OTHER DONIZETTI** Jeremy Polmear (oboe / cor anglais) Diana Ambache (piano) play instrumental music by Donizetti together with Fantasies on his operas by Lalliet, Liszt and Pasculli. Programme also incl wks by Schubert and Schumann £2.50 £4 £5 The Sound Board
Wednesday 9 Dec 7.30 pm	**RHAPSODY, ROCK & RAGTIME** Anna Lethieullier (sop) Del St. John (vocalist) Paul Chandler (flute) The Rose Silk Trio. A unique musical entertainment for the whole family — jazz, romantic ballads, 18th century folk opera, 19th century vocal virtuosity and 1980's musicals. £2.50 £3.50 £4 3R Music Company
Thursday 10 Dec 7.30 pm	**TAKAYOSHI WANAMI** (violin) 20th Century Music for Solo Violin Hindemith Sonata Op 31 No 2, Bartók Sonata Prokofiev Sonata in D Op 115 Hiroshi Hara Petit Bal (British premiere). Ysaÿe Sonata Op 27 No 2 £3 £4.50 £6 Kantor Concert Management
Friday 11 Dec 7.30 pm	**MINSTRELS FROM THE AGE OF CHIVALRY** A lecture-recital by Mary Remnant illustrated by coloured slides and harp, psaltery, gittern, mandora, rebec, fiddle, organistrum, symphony, portative organ, pipe, recorder, pipe-and-tabor, shawm, horn, chimebells & percussion £3 £4, £5 Helen Jennings Concert Agency

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MARIKO SENJU - violin

Mendelssohn: Violin Concerto
Bruckner: Symphony No. 5
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Friday 18 December at 7.30 &
Sunday 20 December at 3.15

CARLO MARIA GIULINI - cond
RADU LUPU - piano
SCHUMANN
Overture, Manfred
Piano Concerto
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SIBELIUS	Violin Concerto
BRAHMS	Symphony No. 2

MONDAY 14 DECEMBER at 7.30
Soloist: **JON KIMURA PARKER**

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS .... Tallis Fantasia
RACHMANINOV Rhapsody on a theme of Paganini
VAUGHAN WILLIAMS .... Symphony No. 5

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Sunday 13 December at 7.30 pm

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WIGMORE HALL

36 Wigmore Street London W1H 9DF
Manager William Lyne MBE Box office 01 935 2141 Mailing list £3

Saturday 5 Dec 7.30 p.m.	**BERNARD ROBERTS** piano Paris 1860-1930. Mozart: Sonata in D K576 Schubert: Sonata in B flat D960; Debussy: 12 Etudes (1915) £5, £4 £3, £2.50
Sunday 6 Dec 11.30 a.m.	**FRANZ SCHUBERT QUARTET OF VIENNA** Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Mozart: String Quartet in D K499 'Hoffmeister' Schubert: String Quartet in D minor D810 'Death and the Maiden' £3 inc free prog & coffee/sherry or squash after perf
Sunday 6 Dec NB Starting time: 4 p.m.	**BERNARD D'ASCOLI** piano Paris 1860-1930. Fauré: Nocturnes Nos 1 & 6 Messiaen: Le Baiser de l'Enfant Jésus; Franck: Prélude, Choral et Fugue. Ravel: Menuet antique, Pavane pour une Infante défunte Jeux d'Eau. Debussy: Estampes, L'Isle Joyeuse. £6, £5, £4, £3 Van Walsum Concert Mgt.
Monday 7 Dec 7.30 p.m.	**ROXANNE WRUBLE** piano. Beethoven: Sonata in B flat Op 22; Barber: Nocturne (Homage to John Field) Op 33, Field: Nocturne in E minor; Chopin: Nocturne in B Op 32 No 1, Scherzo in B minor Op 20; Ned Rorem: Barcarolles, Schumann: Sonata in G minor Op 22 £5, £4, £3 £2.50 Grapevine
Tuesday 8 Dec 7.30 p.m.	**MARGARET PRICE** soprano **GEOFFREY PARSONS** piano Song Recital Series. Mozart: Concert aria "Ch'io mi scordi di te" K505, Songs by Schubert, Mahler & Strauss ALL SEATS SOLD
Wednesday 9 Dec 7.30 p.m.	**GOTHIC VOICES/CHRISTOPHER PAGE** director, medieval harp E. M. & Bar. Ser. Margaret Philpot cont. Rogers Covey-Crump, Leigh Nixon, John Mark Ainsley tens. The Sweet Science: Music from Medieval Italy. Madrigals, ballate & French songs from Italy, 1330-1430 £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Francesca McManus
Thursday 10 Dec 7.30 p.m.	**JUILLIARD QUARTET.** Chamber Music Series. Haydn: String Quartet in B minor Op 33 No 1, Brahms: String Quartet in B flat Op 67, Beethoven: String Quartet in F Op 59 No 1 'Rasumovsky' £6, £5 (all others sold)
Friday 11 Dec 7.30 p.m.	**DUNCAN McTIER** double bass **KATHRON STURROCK** piano Bottesini: Fantasy on 'La Sonnambula', Derek Bourgeois: Sonata Op 100 (1st perf). Brahms: Sonata in E minor Op 38 (arr McTier) £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Jane Gray
Saturday 12 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE WIGMORE CHRISTMAS CRACKER.** The Albion Ensemble. The Cambridge Buskers, Jose-Luis Garcia, Hugues Cuénod, Peter Donohoe, Terry Emery, Duncan McTier, The Nash Ensemble, Sarah Walker, Roger Vignoles. ALL SEATS SOLD
Sunday 13 Dec 11.30 am	**CHRISTMAS CHESTNUTS.** English Echoes. Sunday Morning Coffee Concert. Kathryn Harries sop/Jean Rigby mezzo sop/Andrew King ten/Robert Dean bar/Stuart Hutchinson pno/Simon Butteriss reader Favourite & entertaining songs & music by Ireland, Britten, Irving Berlin & many others. £3 inc free prog & coffee/sherry or squash after perf
Sunday 13 Dec NB: starting time: 4 pm	**JULIAN LLOYD-WEBBER** cello, **PETER PETTINGER** piano. Debussy: Sonata (1915), Bridge: Elegy, Scherzetto, Rawsthorne: Sonata (1949), Arnold: Fantasy Op. 130 (1st perf); Beethoven: Sonata in D Op 102 No. 2 £6.50, £5.50, £4.50, £3.50 Kaye Artists Mgt Ltd
Monday 14 Dec 7.30 pm	**ARTHUR BRASIL** piano Villa-Lobos: Prelude & Aria from Bachianas Brasileiras No 4, Valsa da Dor, Alma Brasileira, Festa no Sertão, 8 Variations on a Minuet of Duport K.573, Debussy: Estampes, Schumann: Arabesque Op 18 Carnaval Op 9 £5 £4, £3, £2.50 Helen Jennings
Tuesday 15 Dec 7.30 pm	**TRIO FINNICO.** Beethoven: Piano Trio in E flat Op. 70 No. 2 Shostakovich: Piano Trio No. 2 in E minor Op 67, Copland: Vitebsk (Study on a Jewish Theme) (1929), Mendelssohn: Piano Trio No. 1 in D minor Op 49 £5, £4, £3, £2.50 Elizabeth Thorneycroft-Smith
Wednesday 16 Dec 7.30 pm	**TINA GRUENBERG** violin. **MICHAEL DUSSEK** piano Mozart: Sonata in F K376, Debussy: Sonata in G minor (1917), Bartók: Rhapsody No 2, Beethoven: Sonata in A Op. 47 'Kreutzer' £6 £4, £3, £2.50 Jane Gray
Thursday 17 Dec 7.30 pm	**THE MARTIN BEST ENSEMBLE.** 'Th,s Yool'. Songs & dances from England, Spain and France inc Nativity and Praise songs from Spain and England. Gautier de Coinci: Miracles of the Virgin. £6.50, £5.50 £4.50 £3.50

St John's Smith Square

London SW1P 3HA Director: Paul Davies
Box Office/CC 01-222 1061

Saturday 5 Dec 7.30 pm	**Y.M.S.O.** James Blair conductor. Christopher Cowie oboe. Mozart: Oboe Concerto K314 Mahler: Symphony No 9. £6.50, £5, £3 (concessions £3) Sponsored by ICI
Monday 7 Dec 1 pm	**BBC LUNCHTIME CONCERT** **CLEVELAND QUARTET** Schubert: Quartet in D, D74 Beethoven: Quartet in B flat, Op 18 No. 6 £2.50 Jane Gray
Wednesday 9 Dec 7.30 pm	**LONDON BARBICAN CONSORT.** Robert Clark director **ENGLISH CHAMBER CHOIR.** Guy Protheroe conductor, Simon Fischer violin. Vivaldi: Four Seasons Handel: Dixit Dominus £5, £4, £3 (concessions £3) English Chamber Choir
Thursday 10 Dec 7.30 pm	**MONTEVERDI CHOIR, ENGLISH BAROQUE SOLOISTS.** John Eliot Gardiner cond. Lynne Dawson, Gillian Fisher sops Rogers Covey-Crump, Paul Elliott tens. Michael George, David Wilson Johnson basses. PURCELL: Dioclesian; Timon of Athens Returns only Sponsor: IBM United Kingdom Trust
Friday 11 Dec 7 pm	**HANDEL: MESSIAH** The Sixteen Choir and Orchestra. Harry Christophers conductor. Lynda Russell soprano, Charles Brett countertenor. Ian Partridge tenor, Robert Hayward bass Tickets £5, £6, £8, £10, £12 English Voices/Magenta Music

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SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA
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TCHAIKOVSKY - SYMPHONY No.6, PATHETIQUE
BEETHOVEN - PIANO CONCERTO No.1
RAVEL - LA VALSE

conductor: Matthias Bamert
piano: Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich

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In aid of the Spastics Society

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Ton't 5 Dec 7.45pm	**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA** Carlos Paita cond. Xue Wei violin. Rossini: Ov. 'The Italian Girl in Algiers' Tchaikovsky: Violin Concerto. Dvořák: Symphony No 9 'From the New World' £13, £11, £8.50 £8.50, £5, £3.50 Sponsored by Legal & General
Tomor 6/29 Dec 3.00pm	**THE SNOWMAN** Sinfonia of London Howard Blake cond. Johnny Morris narr James Rainbird boy sop Howard Blake's 'The Snowman' with 'Walking in the Air' plus the Nursery Rhymes Ov. & The Remarkable Rocket Raymond Gubbay Ltd Adults £8.50, £7.50, £6 Children £5.50, £4.50, £3.50
Tomor 6 Dec 7.30pm	**WREN ORCHESTRA** – Classical Favourites Anthony Inglis cond. Vanya Milanova Violin Mozart: Ov 'Don Giovanni' Sibelius: Finlandia Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1 Beethoven: Symphony No 6 'Pastoral' £12.50, £11.50, £10, £8.50, £6.50, £5.50 Victor Hochhauser Ltd
Mon 7 Dec 7.15pm	**ADRIANA LECOUVREUR** – Concert performance with English Chamber Orchestra, London Oriana Choir, Madeleine Valdes cond. Leon Lovett chorus master, soloists Natalia Troitskaya, Cleopatra Ciurca, Giacomo Aragall, Vincenzo Sardinero, Sean Rea, Stuart Kale, Susan McCulloch, Ann Howard, Paul Crook, Roderick Earle £17.50, £15.50, £12.50, £7.50 Arts Trust
Tue 8 Dec 7.45pm	**ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** – Jeffrey Tate cond. Barbara Bonney sop. Linda Finnie mezzo Robert Tear tenor Gregory Reinhart baritone Tallis Chamber Choir Mozart: Symphony No 40. Requiem £12, £10, £8, £6, £4
Wed 9 Dec 1.00pm	**JOHN OGDON** – International Lunchtime Concert Piano Recital Ravel: Sonatine Rachmaninov: Sonata No 2 and music by Liszt and Albeniz All seats £3 Van Walsum Management
Wed 9 Dec 7.45pm	**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA** Owain Arwel Hughes cond. Hugh Tinney piano Humperdinck: Ov. Hansel and Gretel Mozart: Piano Concerto No 24, K491 Berlioz: Symphonie Fantastique Philharmonia Ltd in Association £12.50, £10.50, £8.50, £6.50, £4.50 with Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Thu 10 Dec 7.15pm	**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** – Simon Rattle cond. Isaac Stern violin Berg: Suite from 'Lulu' Dutilleux: Violin Concerto (first London performance) Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring £11.50, £9.50, £7.50, £5.50, £3.50 ONLY
Fri 11 Dec 7.45pm	**ENGLISH BAROQUE CHOIR** – English Baroque Orchestra Leon Lovett cond. Bronwen Mills soprano Margaret Cable mezzo William Turner counter-tenor Andrew King tenor Henry Herford bass. Works by Bach, Gabrieli, Corelli, Mozart, Handel Sponsored by Liberty Life £10, £8.50, £7.50, £6, £5, £4.50 Assurance Company Limited
Sat 12 Dec 5pm & 8.15pm	**THE MUSIC OF ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER** – London Concert Orchestra Michael Reed cond. Marti Webb, Gary Bond, James Rainbird boy sop Robert Cohen cello Stephen Hill Singers excerpts from Cats, Phantom of the Opera, Requiem £17.50, £15.50, £13.50, £11.50, £9.50, £7.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd
Sun 13 Dec 7.30 pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Wyn Morris cond. Peter Katin piano Beethoven: Symphony No 8 Mozart: Piano Concerto No 25, K503 Beethoven: Symphony No 7 £12.50, £8.50, £5, £3.50 ONLY
Mon 14 Dec 7.45pm	**SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA** Matthias Bamert cond. Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich piano Tchaikovsky: Symphony No 6 'Pathétique' Beethoven: Piano Concerto No 1 in C Ravel: La Valse £10.50, £9.50, £8, £6.50, £5.50
Tue 15 Dec 7.00pm	**CHRISTMAS ORATORIO** National Westminster Choir, London Bach Orchestra Ian Humphris cond. Patricia Kwella sop Cherith Milburn-Fryer contr. Neil Mackie ten. Michael Pearce bass £7.50, £7, £6.50, £6, £5.50, £5, £4, £3 Sponsored by National Westminster Bank
Wed 16 Dec 7.45pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** James Judd cond. Howard Shelley piano Berlioz: Roman Carnival Overture Tchaikovsky: Piano Concerto No 1; 'Sleeping Beauty' Suite; '1812' Overture (with cannon and mortar effects) £12.50, £10.50, £8.50, £5, £3.50 ONLY Sponsored by Peter Stuyvesant Foundation
Thu 17 Dec 7.45pm	**CHRISTMAS CONCERT** King's College Choir, English Chamber Orchestra, Stephen Cleobury cond. Peter Bronder tenor Britten: Saint Nicolas Buxtehude: The new-born Child Albinoni: Adagio Carols old and new £11, £9, £7, £5, £3 Sponsored by Ecclesiastical Insurance Group
Fri 18 Dec 5pm & 8.15pm	**JAMES GALWAY'S CHRISTMAS COLLECTION** – BBC Concert Orchestra: Christopher Adey cond. James Galway flute. Ambrosian Singers. Prog. inc Khachaturian: Spartacus Adagio, Sabre Dance. Vivaldi: Winter from 'The Four Seasons' Christmas carols £15, £12.50, £10, £7.50 Raymond Gubbay Ltd

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TUESDAY 8 DECEMBER 7.45pm BARBICAN HALL

JEFFREY TATE

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MOZART	Requiem

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THURSDAY 10 DECEMBER 7.15pm BARBICAN HALL

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BERG	Suite from 'Lulu'
DUTILLEUX	Violin Concerto *1st London performance*
STRAVINSKY	The Rite of Spring

ISAAC STERN violin
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Music Director: VLADIMIR ASHKENAZY

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

BARBICAN HALL
TONIGHT at 7.45 pm

ROSSINI	Overture, The Italian Girl in Algiers
TCHAIKOVSKY	Violin Concerto
DVORAK	Symphony No. 9 (From the New World)

Soloist: **XUE WEI** Conductor: **CARLOS PAITA**
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HANDEL: MESSIAH

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Wednesday Next 9 December at 7.45
OWAIN ARWEL HUGHES
Associate Conductor
HUGH TINNEY - piano
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FRIDAY 18 DECEMBER at 5 & 8.15 p.m.

JAMES GALWAY'S
CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

RG James Galway plays music by Khachaturian (Adagio from Spartacus, Waltz from Masquerade, Sabre Dance); Vivaldi, (Winter from The Four Seasons); Debussy (The Little Shepherd, Claire De Lune, The Little Negro); and Bazzini arr. Overton (La Ronde Des Lutins) and introduces and plays a selection of his Christmas favourites and Carols for Audience, Choir and Orchestra.
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TUESDAY 22 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.

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LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
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BOYS CHOIR FROM KING'S HOUSE SCHOOL, RICHMOND
£6, £7.50, £8.50; Children (under 16) £3.50, £4.50, £5.50

SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m.

SPANISH FIESTA

RG CARLOS BONELL guitar with his Ensemble
inc. MARA DEL SOL (flute & panpipes)
and special guest dancers
BEATRIZ PEREZ, ROSARIO SERRANO, MARIBEL 'LA MANCHEGA'
in full Spanish costumes
with singer ANTONIO SEVILLA & IAN DAVIES guitar
The music, songs and dances of Spain, inc. Falla: El Amor Brujo (excerpts); Rodrigo: Guitar Solos; Spanish Folk Songs, Flamencos, Tangos and Boleros.
£5.50, £7.50, £9.50, £11.50 Children (under 16) Half Price

SATURDAY 26 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.

BEETHOVEN EVENING

RG Egmont Overture
Piano Concerto No. 5 (Emperor);
Symphony No. 5
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Conductor: BARRY WORDSWORTH
MALCOLM BINNS piano
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SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.

ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

RG
Handel ..ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA
Mozart ....EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
Mozart ....CLARINET CONCERTO
Vivaldi.........................FOUR SEASONS
Conductor: PHILIP LEDGER
JACK BRYMER clarinet JOSE-LUIS GARCIA violin
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

SUNDAY 27 DECEMBER at 7.30 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RG
Rossini ....WILLIAM TELL OVERTURE
Sibelius.................................FINLANDIA
Tchaikovsky..............PIANO CONCERTO NO. 1
Dvorak ....SYMPHONY NO. 9 (NEW WORLD)
Conductor: CESARE CIVETTA LESLIE HOWARD piano
£5.50, £7, £9, £10.50, £11.50, £12.50

MONDAY 28 DECEMBER at 3 & 7.45 p.m.

MUSIC AND DANCE FROM THE BALLET

ORCHESTRA OF SADLER'S WELLS ROYAL BALLET
Conductor: BRAMWELL TOVEY
Principal Dancers of the Sadler's Wells Royal Ballet:
MARION TAIT, KAREN DONOVAN, NICOLA KATRAK, ALAIN DUBREUIL, MICHAEL O'HARE, DAVID BINTLEY
RG Rossini/Respighi: Can-Can from La Boutique Fantasque*; Tchaikovsky: Russian Dance, Grand Pas De Deux*, Dance of The Sugar Plum Fairy*, Tarantella* from The Nutcracker; Delius: Sleigh Ride; Delibes: Magic Scene from Coppelia*; Tchaikovsky: Rose Adagio, Entr'acte, Bluebird Pas De Deux* from Sleeping Beauty; Delibes: Suite from Sylvia; Chopin: Prelude* from Les Sylphides; Herold: Clog Dance* from La Fille Mal Gardee.
*These items will be danced.
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50
Children (under 16) Half Price (Matinee only).

TUESDAY 29 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.

CHRISTMAS LOVE CLASSICS

RG
Tchaikovsky ....ROMEO AND JULIET
J. Strauss II ....ROSES FROM THE SOUTH
Rachmaninov ....PIANO CONCERTO No. 2
Tchaikovsky ....SLEEPING BEAUTY WALTZ
Bizet.....................................CARMEN SUITE
Ravel..BOLERO
And a Christmas Rose for every lady member of the audience.
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Conductor: NICHOLAS CLEOBURY PIERS LANE piano
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER at 3 p.m.

FAMILY CLASSICS

RG ROSSINI: Barber of Seville Overture; SOUSA: Liberty Bell March, TCHAIKOVSKY: Swan Lake Waltz; GRIEG: Piano Concerto; SUPPE: Light Cavalry Overture; STRAUSS: Blue Danube Waltz; MASCAGNI: Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana; ELGAR: Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1; TCHAIKOVSKY: 1812 Overture with Cannon & Mortar Effects.
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA JOANNA MACGREGOR piano
Introduced and Conducted by BRAMWELL TOVEY
£6.50, £7.50, £8.50, £9.50, £10.50. Children (under 16) Half Price

WEDNESDAY 30 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.

OPERA GALA NIGHT

DENNIS O'NEILL
Eiran Davies London Chorale London Concert Orchestra
Fanfare Trumpeters from Welsh Guards
Andrew Greenwood conductor.
RG Verdi: Nabucco Hebrew Slaves Chorus; Rigoletto Excerpts; Macbeth Macduff's Aria; La Traviata Prelude and Brindisi; Aida Grand March; Puccini: Turandot Nessun Dorma; La Boheme Excerpts; Rossini: Barber of Seville Overture; Mascagni: Cavalleria Rusticana Intermezzo, Arias from La Gioconda, Gianni Schicchi etc.
£7.50, £9, £10.50, £12.50, £14.50, £16.50

MONDAY 4 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

WILD WEST POPS

RG Music from the Wild West inc. Lone Ranger Theme (William Tell), Hoedown from Rodeo, For A Fistful of Dollars, The Alamo, Gone With The Wind, High Noon, The Big Country, The Magnificent Seven; and excerpts from Oklahoma, Calamity Jane, Seven Brides For Seven Brothers, Annie Get Your Gun and Paint Your Wagon.
ROYAL PHILHARMONIC POPS ORCHESTRA
Conductor: MICHAEL REED Introduced by BUFFALO BILL
Mary Carewe, Lindsey Benson singers
Showgirls from El Salon Mexico
£5.50, £6.50, £8.50, £10, £11.50, £12.50

TUESDAY 5 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

RG Mozart: Symphony No. 39
Beethoven:
Symphony No. 9 (Choral)
Conductor: JANE GLOVER
LONDON CHORAL SOCIETY
YVONNE KENNY soprano PENELOPE WALKER mezzo soprano
KENNETH WOOLLAM tenor DAVID WILSON-JOHNSON bass
£6, £8, £10, £12, £14

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Finlandia	SIBELIUS
Violin Concerto	BRUCH
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at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL

NEW YEAR GALA CONCERTS

in association with Royal Albert Hall

SUNDAY 27th DECEMBER at 7.30

TCHAIKOVSKY

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Introduced & conducted by: ANTONY HOPKINS
Soloist: ANDREW HAIGH
'Sleeping Beauty' Waltz, 'Swan Lake' Suite,
Piano Concerto No.1, 'Nutcracker' Suite
OVERTURE '1812' WITH CANNON AND MORTAR EFFECTS

FRIDAY 1st JANUARY at 7.30

VIENNESE NEW YEAR GALA OF MUSIC AND DANCE

PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA
Conductor: ORMSBY WILKINS
STARS FROM SADLERS WELLS ROYAL BALLET
JOHANN STRAUSS: Ov. Die Fledermaus, Cuckoo Polka, Perpetuum Mobile, Scene from Graduation Ball, Emperor Waltz, Bahn Frei Polka, Radetzky March, Annen Polka, Voices of Spring, Tritsch-Tratsch Polka, Egyptian March, Wine Women & Song, Champagne Polka, Pizzicato Polka, Blue Danube Waltz; LEHAR: Gold & Silver Waltz.
WALDTEUFEL: Skaters Waltz; LANNER: New Year Galop.

SATURDAY 2nd JANUARY at 7.30

GRAND OPERA NIGHT

WREN ORCHESTRA FANFARE TRUMPETERS
JOHN BATE and WHITEHALL CHOIRS
Conductor: GRAHAM NASH Soprano: ELIZABETH VAUGHAN
Tenor: JOHN BRECKNOCK Baritone: SIMON KEENLYSIDE
Ov. William Tell, Chorus of Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco, Duet from Pearl Fishers, Meditation from Thaïs, Grand Chorus from Aida, Final Trio & Chorus from Faust, Intermezzo Cavalleria Rusticana, Polovtsian Dances,
ARIAS & CHORUSES from Don Giovanni, Gianni Schicchi, La Traviata, Barber of Seville, Il Trovatore, Madam Butterfly, L'Elisir D'Amore, Cavalleria Rusticana, Magic Flute

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Monday 14 December at 7.45 pm

Nigel Kennedy violin **Jeffrey Tate** conductor

English Chamber Orchestra

SCHOENBERG Chamber Symphony No. 2
BRUCH Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor
MOZART Symphony No. 34 in C (with Minuet K409)
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IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 50th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMPOSER'S DEATH

WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER
PIANO RECITAL - 1.10 pm
JULIAN JACOBSON
CHAMBER CONCERT - 7.45 pm
TRIO OF LONDON
Julian Jacobson piano Elisabeth Perry violin Melissa Phelps cello
See South Bank panel for details
KANTOR CONCERT MANAGEMENT

B

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LSO/Colin Davis/Murray Perahia	6 Jan
LSO/Richard Hickox/Carmina Burana	17 Jan
A Theme, with Variations:	
LSO/Colin Davis/John Williams	8 Jan
LSO/Richard Hickox/Dame Janet Baker	24 Jan
Grimethorpe Colliery Band	28 Jan
LSO/Jeffrey Tate/Yo Yo Ma	31 Jan
Endless Parade	10-13 Jan
BBC Festival of the Music of Harrison Birtwistle	
RPO/Jane Glover	5 Jan
Orchestre de Paris/Daniel Barenboim	24 Jan
Stephane Grappelli 80th Birthday	26 Jan
The Best of Broadway/Harry Rabinowitz	30 Jan

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The Wizard of Oz/The Winter's Tale
A Midsummer Night's Dream
Speculators by Tony Marchant
Old Year's Eve by Peter Speyer
Deathwatch and The Maids by Genet

BARBICAN CINEMA

Witches of Eastwick (18)	1-7 Jan
House of Games (15)	8-21 Jan
Wish You Were Here (18)	22-28 Jan
A Month in the Country (15)	from 29 Jan

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The Edwardian Era/Art Gallery	until 7 Feb

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JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

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LEGAL AND FINANCIAL

Will you be my sponsor?

The season of awards for the past year's good will and good works is at hand, but someone has to play Scrooge, so why not the solicitors, says

Edward Fennell

AWARD BY ACCOUNTANTS TO SET UP A SCHOOL TO TEACH SOLICITORS HOW TO GIVE TO CHARITY
LAW SOCIETY

Next week sees the start of the annual "Award" season. And as the celebrities assemble to dish out the various gongs and cheques, the country's top accountants will be prominent among the guest audiences revelling in their role as public patrons and benefactors.

Not so, however, their parsimonious solicitor cousins.

While the accountants are rubbing shoulders with the rich and the royal the Scrooge-like solicitors will be getting on with the serious business of making money. If the idea of public benefaction ever flits across their minds it will be swiftly shooed away. Not for them the grand or generous gesture. Instead they will be concentrating on the tangibles of the bottom line.

The contrast starts on Monday at lunch-time when the winner of the second Venture-Backed Enterprise Award will be announced by Michael Heseltine at a ceremony in the Mayfair Hotel. Backed jointly by accountants Arthur Andersen and *The Sunday Times*, the Enterprise Award amounts to a cool £20,000.

As far as Andersen's are concerned it is an important gesture towards helping the smaller start-up companies which are making their way on minimal amounts of venture capital. And as even a leading solicitor grudgingly confided to me, John Ormerod at Andersen's is to be congratulated for taking this initiative.

As a way of recognizing the boldness of *some of Britain's most exciting* pocket-sized entrepreneurs it is a generous and important initiative.

But are there any lawyers doing the same?

"I wouldn't give anything unless I saw a direct return on it", said Derham O'Neill, the marketing partner with the "hard man" reputation at Clifford Chance. "We do get lots of requests for sponsorship coming in. Most of them are passed to me so that I can turn them down."

Move on in your diary from Monday to next Wednesday. This time the setting is the Victoria & Albert Museum where the Prince and Princess of Wales will be joining in the tenth anniversary celebrations for the *Association for the Business* Sponsorship of the Arts. It will be, as ABSA's Colin Tweedy told me, "the *biggest ever assembly of business arts* sponsors in Britain".

Needless to say, the accountants will be turning up in force. The top 10 firms are all ABSA members and many of them were actually instrumental in setting up ABSA and developing the idea of commercial sponsorship in the UK.

But what about the top 10 solicitors?

Not one is a member. Indeed the lawyers are conspicuous by their absence.

So whatever your assumptions about refinement and public spirit among lawyers, the evidence shows that the accountants do it better. Whereas the number one accountants, Peat Marwick McLintock, are corporate sponsors of the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the Monteverdi Trust and Glyndebourne, the number one solicitors at Clifford Chance explained: "We give a modest amount of money to the National Theatre but it's nothing very exciting. You see, we're not sure of its effects."

And to underline the point, Frere Cholmeley recently sat down and thought long and hard about sponsorship (even bringing in consultants to help them) but ended up deciding on nothing. The story goes that they just could not see its value.

Back among the accountants, however, there seems to be little doubt about the worth of these things. Deloitte Haskins & Sells, you will recall, earned the gratitude of a generation of tiny tots when they sponsored the *Pied Piper* pantomime last Christmas at the National Theatre. It is now considering what it will back next year. But can you imagine the senior partner of a leading law firm turning up as Father Christmas ready to dole out the money to bankroll *Puss in Boots*?

Of course, the scope for sponsorship extends deep and wide. Arthur Young sponsors the British Film Awards which, as ABSA's Colin Tweedy points out, "provides a way of mixing accountants, glamour and fun," while Peat's recently got together with Rank Screen Advertising to support the Cinema Advertising Awards.

Meanwhile, over at Touche Ross, there are projects as diverse as sponsorship *of the annual conference* of the Museums Association and concerts by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

Touche Ross, in fact, has gained quite a reputation for the eclecticism of the way in which it lavishes its largesse on the community. For example, down in the West Country there are village lads *who turn out weekly* to play soccer in the Touche Ross League. And while Touche don't see themselves as the next patrons of the FA Cup they certainly expect to keep up a strong presence on the smaller pitches of the national game.

The arts and sport are the soft underbelly of sponsorship. They are good for prestige and presence and profile as well as being good for the public. The more commercial side of the coin comes in backing businesses.

Needless to say, Peat Marwick McLintock have got to grips with this in a big way. For example, they have the enormous sum of a quarter of a million pounds going directly into more than 50 small firms to help them develop their marketing and financial strategies. And *Peat's are also the largest single sponsors* of Local Enterprise Agencies in the country.

Cynics may say that this is simply a short cut to getting new clients. But without this kind of encouragement smaller companies would undoubtedly find it harder to grow.

Solicitors maybe just cannot compete in this market. A helping hand to fraudsters in the hope that they'll come back for legal advice once they are nicked is not quite what sponsorship is supposed to be about. And with even a lot of big commercial "repeat business" returning to the big City firms only once in a decade, it may be hard to identify exactly where they should put their money.

As John de Forte, a consultant, puts it when advising solicitors: "The best sponsorship is geared to relevant concerns and focuses on the critical things to your business. Frankly, a lot of the and at worst useless."

That may be so. But what about, as the *Americans* would say, being a "good corporate citizen"? Maybe the lawyers have yet to find out what that means.

ENTERTAINMENTS
Continued from page 35

THEATRES

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WHITEHALL off Trafalgar Sq. 01 930 7765 CC 379 4565/379 4444/741 9999/240 7200 (bkg fee) Mon - Fri 8 pm, Wed mat 3.00, Sat 5 & 8.15 HINGE & BRACKET in Oscar Wilde's THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST Directed and adapted by Lou Stein "Mousse to savour" Fin Times

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BRITISH LIBRARY, Gt Russell Street, London WC1. VIEWS OF THE PAST: Drawing as a record of place. Mon- Sat 10-5. Sun 2.30-6. Adm. Free.

CCA GALLERIES presents their CHRISTMAS SHOW, from Saturday 5th December. Featuring a large selection of Original Prints from many of our artists such as Burley, Brigdale, Caddick, Hilon, Spain, Suff. The Show has plenty of ideal Christmas presents, including a wide range of Art Diaries, Address Books, Calendars etc. The Gallery is open late with wine on Thursdays in December until 8pm, and a full Colour Catalogue is available on request. The Collection incorporates a Master Print show also with a colour Catalogue including selected work by Moore, Picasso, Hockney, Chagall and Miro. We also have Galleries at Farnham and Oxford. 8 Dover Street, London W1. 01-499 6701.

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KING STREET GALLERIES 17 King St. St James's, SW1. 01-930 9392. FAIRY TALES: Watercolour illustrations by ERIC KINCAID until 23 Dec.

LEFEVRE GALLERY 30 Bruton Street, W1. 01-493 2107. AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY EDWARD BURRA (1905-1976). 4th November - 18th December. Mon-Fri 10-5, Sats 10-12.30.

LONDON ORIGINAL PRINT FAIR Royal Academy, Piccadilly, W1. 5-8 Dec. Daily 11-6 pm (4am 8pm) Adm. £4 incl. cat. 01-439 7101.

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MALL GALLERIES (Nr Admiralty Arch) SW1. 01-930 6844. THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF MARINE ARTISTS Annual Exhibition. Daily 10-5 until Dec 7th. All works for sale.

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY, St Martin's Place, London, WC2. Tel 01-930 1552. FX WINTERHALTER AND THE COURTS OF EUROPE 1830-1870 Until 10 Jan. Adm. £2. Family Ticket £5. Mon-Fri 10-5 Sat 10-6 Sun 2-6.

PICCADILLY GALLERY 16, Cork Street, W1. 01-629 2875. ERIC ROBERTSON 1887-1941. 25th Nov-24th Dec. Mon-Fri 10-5.30. Sat 10-12.30.

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RUGBY UNION: MORE THAN JUST A TROPHY AT STAKE IN TOSHIBA CHAMPIONSHIP

Andrew and Doggart share a heavy load in North's campaign

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

In full flight: Bailey, the wing, leads the London side today

John Burgess, the president of the Rugby Football Union, is not a man to mince his words: "The divisional championship," he told the London Society of Referees at their annual dinner this week, "should be at a level of play commensurate with most national teams in the world. It may not be at the moment but in five years' time it will be the envy of the world."

That, at least, is a mark of faith in the championship, sponsored by Toshiba, which begins today at Otley, where the North, the holders, play London, and at Bristol where the Midlands, winners in 1985, play the South-West.

Success in the championship will not only bring a handsome trophy to the winning area but will have a critical bearing on the make-up of England's A and B sides in the second half of the season.

It was pungently suggested by a London-based player this week *that, to win a national* place, it would be best to wear a flat hat and have pigeon droppings on one's shoulders – that North-South divide has a lot to answer for. The North may have been champions a year ago but you would not say that they dominated the composition of the eventual England XV.

Ironically, London will be led at Otley by Bailey, whose long spell at Cambridge University and subsequent membership of Wasps make one forget his upbringing in Featherstone.

Bailey's opposite number, Harrison, will also hope to be profitably involved from his wing; whether his hopes are justified will depend on the understanding between his half backs, Andrew and Doggart, the Aspatria scrum half, who makes his first *appearance* at this level.

Doggart, a plumber by trade, knows all about linking disparate elements to make a working whole and his locks and back row should ensure him sufficient possession.

The South-West have yet to make an impact on this competition. *If the combination at* half back of Bristol and Gloucester can release the potential of a promising three-quarter line then the Midlands, despite the quality of their middle five, may be hard pressed to survive.

AT OTLEY: North: S Langford (Orrell); M Harrison (Wakefield, capt), W Carling (Durham University and Harlequins), J Buckton (Saracens), R Underwood (Leicester); R Andrew (Wasps), G Doggart (Aspatria); M Whitcombe (Sale), P Hackett (Waterloo), S Peters (Waterloo), P Cook (Nottingham), W Dooley (Fylde), R Kimmins (Orrell), P Winterbottom (Headingley), A Macfarlane (Fylde).
London: M Rose (Harlequins); S Hunter (Harlequins), L Smith (Saracens), R Lozowski (Wasps), M Bailey (Wasps, capt); N Colyer (Blackheath), S Bates (Wasps); P Rendall (Wasps), J Olver (Harlequins), J Probyn (Wasps), M Skinner (Harlequins), C Pinnegar (Wasps), S O'Leary (Wasps), M Rigby (Wasps), M Rose (Wasps).
Referee: R Megson (Scotland).
AT BRISTOL: South West: J Webb (Bristol); A Swift (Bath), S Halliday (Bath), C Laity (South Glamorgan Institute and Neath), D Trick (Bath); M Hamlin (Gloucester), R Harding (Bristol, capt); G Chilcott (Bath), G Dawe (Bath), R Pascall (Gloucester), A Dun (Bristol), N Redman (Bath), J Brain (Gloucester), A Robinson (Bath), D Egerton (Bath).
Midlands: S Hodgkinson (Nottingham); E Saunders (Rugby), G Hartley (Nottingham), M Northard (Nottingham), C Jones (Nottingham); L Cusworth (Leicester), S Robson (Moseley); L Johnson (Coventry), B Moore (Nottingham), G Pearce (Northampton), J Wells (Leicester), V Cannon (Northampton), J Orwin (Bedford, capt), G Rees (Nottingham), D Richards (Leicester).
Referee: D Bevan (Wales).

Scots pack looking solid for B match

By Ian McLauchlan

This afternoon's B international presents a few of the Anglo-Scots players with an ideal opportunity to repair their somewhat tarnished reputations.

Following their early season showings against the French, the locks, Cronin and Gray, looked to be authentic international challengers, but after the two district games of last weekend, when neither really asserted himself, they have returned to the ranks.

It now looks as though Paxton, who declined to play second row for the South, or White, the Gala No. 8, will join Campbell in the boiler house of the Scottish scrum this season.

That said, the Scots should beat Italy by a handsome margin. The home side have a very big pack and in Graham, Milne and Butcher a good solid foundation on which to build.

Graham, who was the outstanding player in the inter-city match last weekend, is a real international prospect. He is a strong and mobile prop who would be ideally suited to Scotland's present style of play. Another in that mould is the hooker, Kenny Nilne, and this pair will present serious challengers for international honours.

Behind the scrum Armstrong, at inside half, is also a young man building a considerable reputation. Although he is reserve to Oliver in the South team, many believe Armstrong to be a more natural player.

There is certainly no question about his courage but today he must demonstrate *his ability* to serve his back line. His outside half and captain, Ker, also needs a steady game. He must lead his line well and avoid the little tactical aberrations which often mar his performances.

The rest of the three-quarters are strong runners rather than illusive players but they handle and support well and this was the key to their success against France.

In the McEwan's inter-district match at Melrose, South of Scotland are at virtual full strength with 12 full internationalists, seven of whom are in the pack. Glasgow, on the other hand, field a very young eight who could take on the mantle of sacrificial lambs.

The fact that Glasgow are under strength puts additional pressure on the South to win in a convincing manner and by a big score.

Edinburgh announced their side to play against the North and Midlands in the McEwan's inter-district championship match *next Saturday at Raeburn* Place, kick-off 2 p.m.

The obvious omission of the full back is to allow the selectors to run their rule over Gavin Hastings, who although he trained with Edinburgh on Wednesday, will have his club game of the season against Edinburgh Wanderers.

If the big Watsonian can prove his match fitness then no doubt he will be named to fill the last line of defence. This is hard on Spence, the present incumbent, who has just been elevated to the reserve bench for the B international in Aberdeen today

EDINBURGH: A N Other; A Moore (Edinburgh Academicals), S Hastings (Watsonians), *A E Kennedy (Watsonians)*, M R Debusk (Boroughmuir); J G Forbes (Watsonians), J M Scott (Stewart's Melville); D M B Sole (Edinburgh Academicals), K S Milne (Heriot's), A K Brewster (Stewart's Melville), J D Price (Boroughmuir), E M Simpson, J H Calder, F Calder (all Stewart's Melville), K P Rafferty (Heriot's). Replacements: S G Johnston and B J P Huntley (both Watsonians).

TODAY'S TEAM NEWS

Bedford v Gosforth

Gosforth give a league debut to Flowers at prop and have White, the former England prop, available. Johnson also returns at stand-off against Bedford, who play Gilbert at hooker and Wright at lock in place of the absent Howe and Orwin.

Saracens v L'pool SH

Saracens have last season's leading try-scorer, McLagan, back on the wing and play Rudling and Harrison at centre for the absent Smith and Buckton. Liverpool, unbeaten in the league, have Wellans back at centre but are without King, their prop.

Leicester v Gloucs

Both clubs miss half their regulars for this non-league match, Gloucester bringing in Beytell at scrum half for his first game. Leicester's reshaped back row includes Marriott, Povoas and Tebbutt, with Harris at stand-off.

Newport v Bristol

The RAF full back, Raikes, makes his Bristol debut and Pomphrey returns from injury to captain the side. Newport bring Manley int. the centre and hope to have put their recent crises behind them.

Nrthmpton v Llanelli

With Pearce playing for the Midlands, Northampton give Hutchinson, a former Marine Commando, his debut at prop. Llanelli play Clement at scrum half with Davies and put Fox, normally a hooker, at flanker.

Moseley v H'dingley

Moseley recall Jones at stand-off and Fenley will be his scrum half. Guisborne comes in at prop for the absent Linnett while the Yorkshire team have Sellar and Fraser available in the pack and Worrall at scrum half.

Bath v Ldn Scottish

Despite divisional calls, Bath can still put three internationals into the side against Scottish: Hill, the captain, Palmer, his partner at half back and Simpson in the back row.

Richmond v Cov'ntry

Coventry, heartened by last week's huge victory over Bedford, have Travers in their back row and Farrington returning at hooker, with the reliable Thomas and Lakey at half back.

Neath v Orrell

Neath give Pickering, the former Wales captain, his first game *since he rejoined the club from* Llanelli last month.

P'pool v Glam Wand

Pontypool are without Ring, on holiday, and play Powell at stand-off. Bishop leads the side and Johnson is at hooker while Wanderers have Gough and Hemburrow back in the pack.

Divided loyalties in the Thomas clan

By Chris Than

Mark Thomas: confident

There are four in the Thomas clan: Clem, the patriarch, a rugby wizard and wit; and his three sons, Chris, aged 30, a lock forward, Greg, 24, a centre with London Welsh, and the youngest, Mark, 23, a postgraduate student in land economy at Magdalene College and the Cambridge University full back.

On December 8, all four of them will be at Twickenham – the eldest and the youngest in an operative capacity, the other two as keen and totally biased spectators.

Mark is expected to provide Cambridge University with the confidence of a veteran of three university matches. Clem, a former Cambridge Blue himself and a leading rugby writer, is in the unenviable position of the emotionally involved neutral observer.

The two disagree vehemently on the odds for Tuesday's match. The elder Thomas believes that the four world-class players, David Kirk, Bill Calcraft, Bill Campbell and Brendan Mullin, can turn the tide in Oxford's favour. His son talks of the remarkable team spirit and confidence of all Cambridge players.

"We've played together all season, and nine of us also played last year. It is not arrogance, it is a quiet confidence that we can win this match," Mark Thomas said.

They do agree, however, that the university match is a special occasion.

"It is unlike any other match. The pace is frenetic," Clem Thomas said. "It is probably one of the fastest games of rugby played anywhere. It is so fast that you can't catch up with the game. I can hardly remember anything about the match I played in. The fitness is also terrific. The only time you are ever as fit is when you go on a Lions tour."

The younger Thomas agreed. "It is the next best thing to a rugby international," he said. "The atmosphere is terrific. The match divides the country and the partisanship of the supporters creates a unique occasion. Since I was a kid I always wanted to play for Cambridge. Clem kept telling us stories about his great life at Cambridge so I always wanted to be there."

Clem Thomas is pretty proud of his three sons, but confesses that rugby in their lives has been only a bonus. "My three sons are the greatest pleasure of my life. Not because of their rugby. But because they are good human beings, because of their good behaviour, good manners, their balance in life, their decency and normality. Rugby is simply a bonus. I am a happy father. They are my sons and my friends."

Although he won only one Blue at Cambridge, Clem Thomas played 26 times for Wales, nine times as captain.

Mark, after playing, like his father, brothers and maternal grandfather, Bruce Barter, for Swansea, has only managed to reach the representative ranks of the Welsh students. As a young and promising player, he has always been forced to live in the huge shadow of his father.

"It is quite unfair. It puts too much pressure on them. People expect too much of them too soon. That tends to put them off a bit," Clem Thomas said.

"I am very proud to be his son. But when I am on the field it's only me, not Clem. I would prefer to be judged by what I do rather than by comparison. But I have no choice. I shrug it off and carry on with my game," Mark said.

Mark Thomas damaged his right knee in the 1985 match against Steele-Bodger's XV and had a ligament replacement operation. He was out of the game for a year and made a tentative comeback three games before the 1986 university match.

He was definitely not on song at Twickenham last year and was sidelined for another two months following that game, but a training holiday in the Rocky Mountains, in the United States, helped the workaholic to overcome the physical and psychological scars of his knee operation.

"When I train, I tend to do too much. People tell me that I should take a day off. But because I am a very physical player I need to be at the peak of my fitness in order to avoid injury.

"After the operation it took some time before I could get my confidence back. A lot of people failed to understand last year that I was just back after injury and expected me to keep going like before. This time is a good opportunity to show them that I am back to normal."

Injuries still abound

A try by *Mark McKinstry* gave Ballymena a one-point win over CIYMS in a Boston Cup game earlier in the week, the score coming two minutes from the no-side whistle. But it was not the kind of form that would enable the Eaton Park side to defeat Melrose this afternoon (George Ace writes).

Ballymena have, of late, been hit by a spate of injuries and will again be without a few regulars, including their fast-improving outside half McAleese, and a doubt hangs over the wing forward, Hughes.

Melrose, however, arrived in Northern Ireland last night and *the renowned* hospitality of the Ballymena club may have its effect on the *Borders'* side this afternoon.

Queen's University, showing improved form of late, meet University College Galway, in a Colours match at Upper Malone and an always-keen encounter will take place at Deramore between the Old Boys of Methodist College Belfast and Royal Belfast Academical Institution.

Collegians and Instonians may be going through a sticky period – both are without points in section one of the senior league – but that will not detract from their endeavours this afternoon, and the losers will surely assume the mantle of favourites *for relegation to section* two next season.

Crowe's referee plea

Jimmy Crowe, who has been part of the London refereeing scene for more years than he would care to remember, took the opportunity at the London Society's 99th annual dinner on Thursday evening to make a plea to the Rugby Football Union to turn their attention towards the recruitment of referees (*David Hands writes*).

Crowe, president of the society, said: "Recruits are not coming forward. It is said there is too much hassle. Some of our recruits don't see out their probationary year because they don't like the attitude of players and club officials. Perhaps the RFU, with their considerable *resources, should consider making* a recruitment campaign."

He also commented on approaches to refereeing in Denmark – not always regarded as the most developed of Europe's rugby-playing countries. When encouraging youngsters to become involved in rugby, the Danes have offered them the chance either to play or – since there are not many rugby clubs – to referee.

Certainly the demands made upon refereeing societies up and down the country will increase as the structure of the game becomes more formal. There is already a call for qualified referees to run the line in leading league matches, as they do in the later stages of the John Player Special Cup.

TENNIS: EXPLOSIVE BECKER BRINGS OUT THE BEST IN THE FAVOURITE OF MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

Unbridled bravado of Connors

From Richard Evans, New York

With two defeats in two matches it is now highly unlikely, although still mathematically possible, for Jimmy Connors to reach the semi-finals of the Nabisco Masters here at Madison Square Garden.

But, just as he did at Wimbledon this year with his superb comeback against Mikael Pernfors, Connors has already left an indelible mark on this tournament.

For the second consecutive night the former Wimbledon champion roused the crowd from a state of what could be described as apathy by New York standards with a display of unbridled bravado against Boris Becker.

He failed by a margin of 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 but once again the combustible chemistry that exists between Connors and a New York audience quickened the pulse and provided pure entertainment.

How a 35-year-old suffering from a heavy cold can come into a tournament of this standard after a six-week lay-off and launch himself into serves of 125 mph with such venomous accuracy remains one of the marvels of professional sport.

Sunil Gavaskar facing Malcolm Marshall at Lord's last summer offers an approximate equivalent, the skill required being of a similar order.

Gavaskar was occasionally beaten for sheer pace as, indeed, was Connors. Once, when Becker synchronized the timing of his explosive delivery to perfection, the ball flew off the frame of a racket. Connors used simply for protection in a barely successful attempt to prevent a hole being drilled in his chest.

But, more frequently, Becker found his service rocketing back at him as the American met the ball with that flat, sweeping follow-through that has made Connors one of the greatest returners of service the game has ever seen.

"As usual it was my best weapon against his best weapon and this time mine won," said Becker, who produced 17 aces and 10 double faults, a ratio that adequately summarized the West German's performance.

Connors broke service in the first game of the first set but Becker, who says he has developed complete trust in his new coach, Bob Brett, is beginning to exude an aura of confidence again and broke back immediately.

By the end Connors, frustrated perhaps by the passing years, took a swipe at the court-side flowers and was given a conduct warning. The Garden crowd just loved him even more.

Ivan Lendl continued to look unchallengeable in the Rod Laver Group, beating Brad Gilbert 6-2, 6-2, but he will be hoping that he avoids Stefan Edberg when the format switches to the semi-final knock-out stage tomorrow.

Edberg, playing in the group named after the legendary Kramer touring pro, Pancho Segura, looked every bit as good as the No. 1 seed as he served and volleyed his way past Miloslav Mecir 6-3, 6-3.

Mecir may well have decided that Madison Square Garden is not to his liking. This is the first Masters for this moody performer who has already voiced his disdain for most things American and there has been little hint in either of his matches so far that he is particularly interested in the proceedings.

Meanwhile, Becker's manager, Ion Tiriac, has been enlivening the social scene with one of his extravagant punches to announce the inauguration of his controversial eight-man event in Stuttgart next November.

As it will offer $2 million of the city's money in precisely the week assigned to Grand Prix events not only at Wembley but also nearby Frankfurt, Tiriac obviously had some explaining to do.

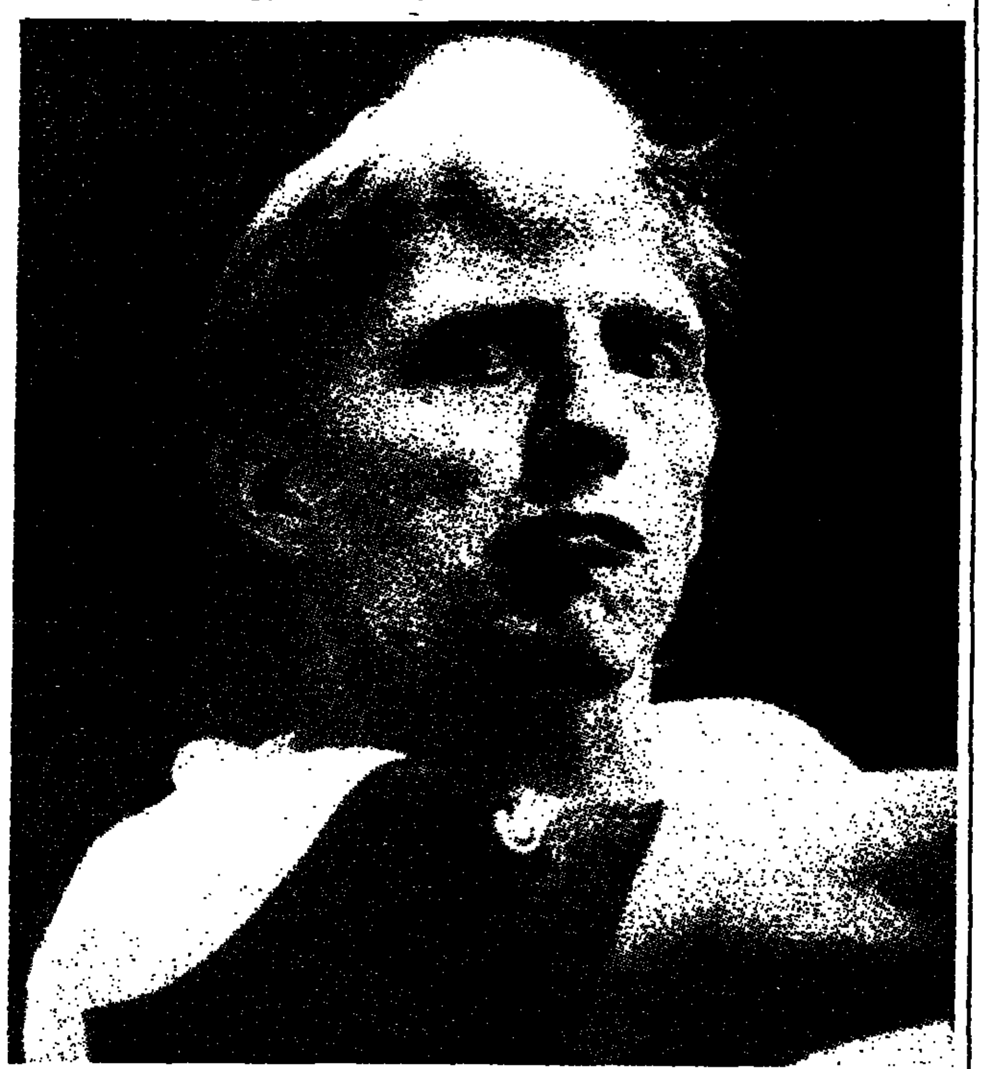
"I applied for an $800,000 Grand Prix event but the MIPTC said it was too much," he said. "I tried to play by the rules but what am I do do? After my first application they told me I couldn't run a tournament because I managed a player. So Stuttgart want a tournament, so I give them one."

It may be some compensation to the Benson & Hedges tournament director, Len Owen, that Tiriac is not approaching Pat Cash and his 1986 winner, Yannick Noah, as both are designated to Wembley by the MIPTC. However, Lendl, Connors and John McEnroe have already agreed to play in Stuttgart.

RESULTS: Pancho Segura Group: S Edberg (Swe) bt M Mecir (Cz), 6-3, 6-3. Standings: (Played, won, lost): Edberg 2-2-0; M Wilander (Swe), 1-1-0; P Cash (Aus), 1-0-1; Mecir, 2-0-2. Rod Laver Group: I Lendl (Cz) bt B Gilbert (US), 6-2, 6-2; B Becker (WG), bt J Connors (US), 7-5, 2-6, 6-3. Standings: Lendl 1-1-0; Becker (WG), 1-1-0; Gilbert 2-1-1; Connors 2-0-2

German date

Neuss (AP) — West Germany will play its first-round Davis Cup match against Brazil on February 5 to 7 in Essen.



Garden battler: Becker unleashes a salvo against Connors at Madison Square Garden

CYCLING

Clean drugs verdict on time triallists

Riders in three national time trial championships this season — the men's 25 and 100 miles and the women's 10 miles — were tested for drugs but the annual report of the Road Time Trials Council states that "all the samples analysed were clear of any proscribed substance." (Peter Bryan writes).

But the tests brought a 12-week suspension on Barbara Collins, of Walsall, the 1984 10 miles champion, and disqualification from the title trial in July for not reporting to the medical control.

Miss Collins claimed it was only when she got home that she remembered being chosen for a random test.

Delegates at tomorrow's RTTC National Council meetings in Oxford will have the opportunity to discuss drugs but the issue likely to take up a lot of time will be the ending of the joint agreement with the British Cycling Federation which the RTTC sees as a threat to its hitherto sole control of time trials in England and Wales.

BOWLS

Officials admit to 'structuring' draw

By David Rhys Jones

For the first time in a major televised championship, WIBC (World Indoor Bowls Council) officials have admitted that seeding has been used to "structure" the draw for the 1987/88 Midland Bank World Pairs indoor championship, which starts tomorrow at the Bournemouth International Centre, with prize money totalling £50,000.

Suspicions that previous draws have been "structured" are unconfirmed, but no one in the sport is arguing against the prudence of keeping the favourites apart until the later rounds.

Thus, David Bryant and Tony Allcock, the holders and No. 1 seeds, are officially tipped to meet last season's runners-up, Stephen Rees and John Price, in next Saturday's final, and will roll the first woods of the championship tomorrow, when their first round opponents will be the unpredictable Stan Espie and the self-contained Sammy Allen from Belfast.

Bryant and Allcock are both bowls professionals — although they tactfully prefer to describe themselves as "company directors." They are officially expected to meet the brilliant young Irish pair, Alan McMullan and David Corkill in the semi-final.

Corkill, who figured strongly in last season's big four events, has reached two finals already this winter.

Rees and Price, from Swansea, are scheduled to meet the formidable New Zealanders, Phil Skoglund and Peter Belliss, in their semi-final, but there are several likely-looking pairings aiming to thwart expectations.

DRAW: First round: D J Bryant and T Allcock (Eng) v S Espie and S Allen (Ire); P Fong (Fiji) and C Bransky (Isr) v C Lewis and C Taylor (Wales), H Duff and W Wood (Sco) v G Smith and A Thomson (Eng); J Jones and M Nicolle (Channel Islands) v A McMullan and D Corkill (Ire); E Sands and J Baker (Ire) v M Jones and P Jenkins (Wales); P Skoglund and P Belliss (NZ) v D Roberts and T Hamill (Sco); I Schuback and J Yates (Aus) v G Smyth and S Halmai (Eng); J Summers and W Sullivan (Sco) v S Rees and J Price (Wales.)

RACING

NOTTINGHAM

Selections

By Mandarin

1.0 Setter Country. 1.30 Marie Baby. 2.0 Taberna Lord. 2.30 Polish. 3.0 Stearsby. 3.30 Drowsy.

Going: good to soft (chase course); soft (hurdles)

1.0 CANDLE MEADOW NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £1,226: 2m) (14 runners)

4 CRESPIN G Thorner 11-0 .... —
6 P ENGLISH RIVER 16 R Weaver 11-0 .... J Burton
7 4 FE 30 F Winter 11-0 .... NON-RUNNER
8 GLOVER'S KIND Miss A King 11-0 .... A Webb
9 GOLDEN TOPAZ E Eldin 11-0 .... S Keightley
12 HUBBA G Thorner 11-0 .... J White
14 0 LOTUS ISLAND 14 (B) N Tinkler 11-0 .... G McCourt
16 P MR CORMAN 52 M Robinson 11-0 .... E Waite
32 3 TROJAN WAR 8 C Spares 11-0 .... J McLaughlin
33 VISON OF WONDER J King 11-0 .... S McNeill
34 WARRIOR BRAVE J Bukovets 11-0 .... S Cosack (7)
35 0 ZOAN 31 A Turnell 11-0 .... I Lawrence (7)
36 ANSWERS PLEASE M Smyly 10-9 .... S Shilston
39 22 SETTER COUNTRY 18 (BF) R Hodges 10-9 .... S Earle

11-4 Setter Country, 7-2 Lotus Island, 5-1 Vision Of Wonder, 13-2 Golden Topaz, 8-1 Trojan War, 12-1 others.

1.30 TON UP SELLING HURDLE (£1,057: 2m) (11)

2 0031 FISHING SMACK 28 (D,S) B Byford 4-11-7 T Woolley (7)
5 306- DALBY GIRL 229 P Felgate 4-11-2 .... S Johnson
6 3-0 DAVALLIA 8 W Hastings-Bass 4-11-2 .... S McNeill
9 BEAULIEU BAY (V) A Dawson 3-10-5 .... —
13 303P INFRA RED BOY 4 K Morgan 3-10-5 .... M Brennan
16 P021 MARIE BABY 8 (B,D,S) F Jordan 3-10-5 .... A Webb
17 0 MAYBEMUSIC 9 P Bevan 3-10-5 .... J Burton
19 TOKANDA F Yardley 3-10-5 .... —
20 FINAL RUSH K Wingrove 3-10-0 .... Mrs H Noonan
23 0004 LUDLOW LADY 18 R Hodges 3-10-0 .... S Earle
25 SAPPHARINO R Stubbs 3-10-0 .... S Keightley

5-2 Fishing Smack, 3-1 Davalia, 4-1 Ludlow Lady.

2.0 SOUTH YORKSHIRE ROAD SPECIALIST NOVICES CHASE (£3,109: 2m 6f) (13)

3 -4F1 LOR MOSS 11 (F,S) A Leighton 7-11-8 .... M Price (7)
8 4P00 CATHY'S PAL 30 (B,S) J Chugg 7-11-4 .... B de Haan
9 000- DANCING ADMIRAL 372 (S) K Morgan 7-11-4 .... —
12 8P-P FORTASCUE 14 O Sherwood 7-11-4 .... C Cox
15 PP0P PAUPERS SON 11 (B,S) R O'Leary 10-11-4 .... —
19 B/P SEVERN SOLITAIRE 12 K Wingrove 8-11-4 W Worthington
20 12-2 TABERNA LORD 17 (G,S) A J Wilson 6-11-4 .. L Harvey
22 P-F0 THE NIGELSTAN 14 P Hedger 6-11-4 .... A Webb
25 -FP0 WELSH DISPLAY 17 (F,G,S) J Bennett 10-11-4 S Shilston
29 40 TOM BIR 12 A Turnell 5-11-2 .... G McCourt
31 24PP BETTY'S GIRL 10 P O'Leary 7-10-13 .... M Brennan
32 00 RUSTICA SILK 12 J King 6-10-13 .... S McNeill
33 0-0F JOY'S DOUBLE 12 J Chugg 5-10-11 .... M Bowlby

5-4 Taberna Lord, 5-2 Lor Moss, 8-1 Tom Bir, 12-1 Betty's Girl, 14-1 Dancing Admiral, 20-1 others.

2.30 CHLORIDE CLASSIC HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,893: 2m 6f) (7)

3 302- SMITH'S GAMBLE 246 (S) Mrs J Pitman 5-11-10 G McCourt
4 0-F3 LIGHT THE LOT 58 (F) O Sherwood 5-11-1 .... C Cox
8 4-00 SUPER GRASS 30 (S) B Smart 8-10-7 .... L Harvey
9 -001 POLISH 11 (S) R Dickin 9-10-0 (7ex) .... A Webb
11 30-4 KNIGHT'S HEIR 21 (G) O Brennan 6-10-0 .. M Brennan
14 -000 MISCHIEVOUS JACK 15 (C,G) B Byford 6-10-0 T Woolley (7)
16 -P00 BLACKWELL BOY 11 (B,G) A James 5-10-0 R Fahey (7)

9-4 Polish, 7-2 Light The Lot, 9-2 Smith's Gamble, 6-1 Knight's Heir, 10-1 Super Grass, 12-1 others.

3.0 STAN MELLOR HANDICAP CHASE (£3,106: 3m 4f) (3)

1 P-02 STEARSBY 9 (G,S) Mrs J Pitman 8-12-0 .. G McCourt
3 -21U LITTLE POLVEIR 7 (BF,S) J Edwards 10-10-9 M Richards (4)
7 0P44 QUEENSWAY BOY 14 (F,G,S) Miss A King 8-10-0 A Webb

4-5 Stearsby, 11-10 Little Polveir, 12-1 Queensway Boy.

3.30 BRADDEN NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£856: 2m 6f) (16)

1 2-31 MAC'S GOLD 16 (S) R Armytage 5-12-3 (7ex) Mr M Armytage (4)
3 -030 SAGART AROON 12 O Brennan 7-11-8 .... M Brennan
5 -P08 CARDGROVE 19 J Bukovets 4-11-7 .... S Cosack (7)
8 30-0 H AND K HATTRICK 19 D Gandolfo 6-11-5. M Williams
9 304- SWOP SHOP 295 J J O'Neill 8-11-5 .... G Lyons (7)
10 3382 SIBERIAN DANCER 15 P Felgate 7-11-5 .... S Johnson
13 -200 FIRE REFINED 30 Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4 .... M Bowlby
15 P-00 DROWSY 15 (B) O Sherwood 5-11-0 .... C Cox
16 3-0P BROAD WOOD 18 R Hodges 5-11-0 .... S Earle
18 -440 BIETSCHHORN HUT 23 D Gandolfo 5-10-12 S J O'Neill
21 000- SMITH'S LAD 298 Mrs J Pitman 5-10-10 .... G McCourt
22 2/P0 DEMOCRATIC BOY 11 J King 5-10-8 .... S McNeill
23 0-0P CHANCELLORSVILLE 22 P W Harris 5-10-7 .... —
24 00-0 ANOTHER TROUP 24 R Townsend 5-10-2 Mr D Townsend (7)
25 00-0 JUST SMOKEY 17 Miss S Bather 5-10-2 .... —
27 -PP0 ALLMIN 14 J Wainwright 5-10-1 .... G Harker

7-2 Mac's Gold, 4-1 Siberian Dancer, 5-1 Swop Shop, 13-2 Sagart Aroon, 8-1 Fire Refined, 10-1 others.

Course specialists

TRAINERS: A Turnell, 5 winners from 14 runners, 35.7%; F Winter, 8 from 24, 33.3%; Mrs J Pitman, 10 from 65, 15.4%; O Brennan, 6 from 41, 14.6%. (Only qualifiers).

JOCKEYS: M Brennan, 10 winners from 87 rides, 11.5%; G McCourt, 10 from 94, 10.6%. (Only qualifiers).

WETHERBY

Selections

By Mandarin

12.45 Leavenworth. 1.15 The Divider. 1.45 Tancred Sand. 2.15 Handy Trick. 2.45 Annette's Delight. 3.20 Edwards Vision.

Michael Seely's selection: 1.45 Tancred Sand.

Going: good to soft

12.45 THORP ARCH NOVICES HURDLE (3-Y-O: £685: 2m) (20 runners)

1 31 LEAVENWORTH 14 (D,G) J Blundell 11-0 .... N Fearn (4)
2 3P ALBION PLACE 14 A Brown 10-7 .... R Marley (7)
3 0 ANTINOUS 10 M H Easterby 10-7 .... L Wyer
6 DRESS UP M H Easterby 10-7 .... D Dutton
8 F GOLD SCEPTRE 10 N Tinkler 10-7 .... Miss G Armytage
9 0 LORD THATCH 14 (BF) J Jefferson 10-7 .... M Hill
10 000 LOTTIE'S FURY 21 W A Stephenson 10-7 A Merrigan (4)
12 2040 MARKET SPIRIT 14 P Liddle 10-7 .... T P White
14 MUNTAG J Hellens 10-7 .... A Orkney
15 0 NICKEL SILVER 14 (BF) G Richards 10-7 .... P Tuck
16 NIGHT CLUB J J O'Neill 10-7 .... G Lyons (7)
17 PHILOTAS Denys Smith 10-7 .... C Grant
18 0304 PHILS PRIDE 21 A Smith 10-7 .... J A Harris
20 SIROCKO BAY R Whitaker 10-7 .... S Turner (7)
21 0 SKINNHILL 8 M W Easterby 10-7 .... P Niven
23 0 YOUNG COMMANDER 11 J Hanson 10-7 .... G Bradley
24 4 YOUNG SNUGFIT 35 M W Easterby 10-7 .... R Beggan
26 MAJESTIC MISS G Oldroyd 10-2 .... W Stephens (7)
27 00 NATURALLY AUTUMN 14 R Barr 10-2 .... C Dennis (7)
28 NAUTICAL BELLE D Ringer 10-2 .... —

9-4 Dress Up, 7-2 Young Snugfit, 5-1 Leavenworth, 6-1 Lord Thatch, 7-1 Nickel Silver, 12-1 others.

1.15 EMMERDALE FARM HANDICAP CHASE (£3,726: 2m 4f 100yd) (8)

2 -420 REPINGTON 21 (CD,F,G,S) N Crump 9-11-10 D Wilkinson
3 22-0 THE DIVIDER 14 (G,S) Mrs T Calder 9-11-4 .... B Storey
4 3132 FERGY FOSTER 14 (CD,BF,F,G,S) W A Stephenson 7-11-3 C Grant
5 -40P BARRYPHILIPS DISCO 14 (G,S) R Whitaker 10-11-2 G Bradley
6 42R- HILL'S GUARD 241 (CD,F,G,S) C Tinkler 8-11-2 L Wyer
8 2142 CENTRE ATTRACTION 10 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 8-10-12 P Tuck
10 P-01 ADEN APOLLO 14 (G,S) T Craig 6-10-9 (10ex) D Nolan
11 -311 BARTINAS STAR 56 (F,G,S) P Bevan 7-10-6 .... —

3-1 Centre Attraction, 4-1 The Divider, 5-1 Repington,

Course specialists

TRAINERS: Jimmy Fitzgerald, 23 winners from 114 runners, 20.2%; M H Easterby, 35 from 175, 20.0%; G Richards, 21 from 109, 19.3%; Mrs M Dickinson, 8 from 44, 18.2%; W A Stephenson, 41 from 257, 16.0%; M W Easterby, 16 from 101, 15.8%.

JOCKEYS: L Wyer, 13 winners from 48 rides, 27.1%; G Bradley, 17 from 92, 18.5%; M Dwyer, 23 from 131, 17.6%; C Grant, 34 from 221, 15.4%; P Tuck, 20 from 175, 11.4%; D Dutton, 16 from 151, 10.6%.

1.45 ATS HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,188: 2m) (10)

6 349- ORBITAL MANOEUVERS 278 (D,F,G,S) P Blockley 6-11-10 P Niven
8 -120 MASNOON 15 (D,F,G,S) Denys Smith 4-11-10 . C Grant
12 00-0 CHARLOTTE'S DUNCE 14 (CD,F,S) M H Easterby 7-11-4 L Wyer
14 12-1 TANCRED SAND 7 (D,G,S) J Jefferson 4-11-3 (5ex) M Hill
15 00-3 CAROUSEL ROCKET 7 (D,G,S) R Whitaker 4-11-1 G Bradley
16 1-21 CLIFFALDA 19 (D,G) J Edwards 4-10-12 .... D Tegg (7)
18 F3B1 NAP MAJESTICA 74 (D,F,G) Mrs N Macauley 4-10-10 P Tuck
19 0-12 HAPPY BREED 14 (D,BF,G,S) J Blundell 4-10-10 N Fearn (4)
21 3-03 SEA PENNANT 12 (D,F,S) I Jones 11-10-3 .... —
22 001/ RUCKLEY 852 (F) W Haigh 7-10-0 .... M Pepper

7-4 Tancred Sand, 11-4 Cliffalda, 5-1 Carousel Rocket, 8-1 Nap Majestica, 8-1 Happy Breed, 12-1 Masnoon, 14-1 others.

2.15 SUPERMASTER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,746: 3m 100yd) (5)

6 1311 HANDY TRICK 14 (CD,F,G,S) W A Stephenson 6-12-0 (4ex) A Merrigan (4)
9 -233 WHATS WHAT 10 (CD,BF,F,G,S) B Bousfield 8-10-12 B Storey
10 13-3 MICK'S STAR 12 (CD,G,S) M W Easterby 7-10-11 P Tuck
11 4UP3 EVEN DEEPER 11 (S) J Blundell 7-10-5 .... N Fearn (4)
13 2F40 MR CHRIS 7 (G,S) M Naughton 8-10-0 .... C Grant

6-4 Whats What, 7-4 Handy Trick, 7-2 Mick's Star, 8-1 Even Deeper, 10-1 Mr Chris.

2.45 YORK HANDICAP CHASE (£2,221: 2m 50yd) (3)

2 -23F KARENOMORE 7 (CD,BF,G,S) M H Easterby 9-11-10 L Wyer
3 0-04 ANNETTE'S DELIGHT 15 (F,G,S) T Casey 8-10-12 R Beggan
4 -322 KEVINSFORT 11 (V,CD,BF,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 9-10-10 —

11-10 Karenomore, 7-4 Annette's Delight, 11-4 Kevinsfort.

3.20 BOROUGHBRIDGE NOVICES HURDLE (£685: 3m) (13)

2 -313 BISHOPDALE 7 (BF,S) W A Stephenson 6-10-13 A Merrigan (4)
3 021 EDWARDS VISION 10 (S) Mrs M Dickinson 6-10-13 G Bradley
4 -231 RED RUDDEL 11 (C,S) J Hanson 4-10-13 .... L Wyer
5 -212 TARTAN TRADEMARK 15 (BF,S) G Richards 5-10-13 P Tuck
9 22F3 CRACK-A-JIM 3 (BF) Miss Z Green 5-10-9 NON-RUNNER
12 -300 GRANGE OF GLORY 48 J Hellens 5-10-9 .... A Orkney
18 0P-0 SOVEREIGN STEPS 11 J Jefferson 5-10-9 .... M Hill
19 000 CHEEKY PIGEON 18 R Barr 5-10-4 .... —
20 000/ CORBIEBEAG 628 Miss F Geddes 7-10-4 .... P Niven
22 00- KEMCROSS 289 R Layland 7-10-4 .... J D Davies (4)
23 0423 LINGHAM BRIDE 14 (F) J Swiers 5-10-4 ... C Dennis (7)
24 30 PINWIDDIE 10 N Tinkler 5-10-4 .... C Grant
25 -60B POLITICAL PROSPECT 35 Mrs J Goodfellow 5-10-4 B Storey

7-4 Edwards Vision, 9-4 Tartan Trademark, 7-2 Red Ruddel, 6-1 Bishopdale, 12-1 Lingham Bride, 16-1 others.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Second round

Bristol C v Torquay
Cambridge v Yeovil
Colchester v Hereford
Gillingham v Walsall
Grimsby v Halifax
Leyton Orient v Swansea
Maidstone v Kidderminster
Mansfield v Lincoln
Northampton v Brighton
Peterborough v Sutton Utd
P Vale v Notts Co
Runcorn v Stockport
Scunthorpe v Sunderland
VS Rugby v Bristol R
Welling v Bath
Wigan v Wolverhampton
Wrexham v Bolton
York v Hartlepool

Vauxhall-Opel League
Premier division

Bromley v St Albans
Carshalton v Basingstoke
Dulwich v Hayes
Farnborough v Hitchin
Hendon v Bognor
Leytonstone/Ilf v B Stortford
Leyton-Wingate v Slough
Tooting and Mitcham v Harrow
Windsor and Eton v Croydon
Wokingham v Barking

Beazer Homes League
Premier division

Ashford v Shepshed
Bromsgrove v Burton
Cambridge City v Witney
Corby v Alvechurch
Crawley v Redditch
Leicester Utd v Bedworth
Nuneaton v Dartford
Willenhall v Gosport
Worcester v Aylesbury

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Ards v Cliftonville (2.15); Ballymena v Distillery (2.15); Carrick v Bangor; Crusaders v Coleraine; Glentoran v Glenavon; Newry v Linfield; Portadown v Larne.

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Everton v Manchester City (2.0).

SUNDAY MIRROR COMBINATION: Chelsea v Bristol Rovers (3.15); Southampton v Queen's Park Rangers (2.0); Tottenham v Arsenal (2.0); Watford v Luton.

NORTHERN PREMIER LEAGUE: Premier division: Bangor City v Barrow; Chorley v Marine; Frickley v Southport; Gainsborough v Buxton; Gateshead v Caernarfon; Goole v Hyde; Morecambe v Matlock; Mossley v Workington; Oswestry v Horwich; South Liverpool v Rhyl; Worksop v Witton. First division: Leek v Netherfield. League Cup: Preliminary round, second leg (*first leg score in brackets*): Alfreton (1) v Harrogate (2); Curzon Ashton (2) v Congleton (2); Droylesden (0) v Irlam (1); Eastwood Hanley (2) v Accrington Stanley (1); Lancaster (2) v Sutton Town (4); Radcliffe (4) v Eastwood Town (4); Stalybridge (0) v Fleetwood (1); Winsford (2) v Farsley (1).

VAUXHALL-OPEL LEAGUE: First division: Basildon v Bracknell; Boreham Wood v Wembley; Grays Athletic v Chesham; Marlow v Leatherhead; Oxford City v Kingsbury; Southwick v Hampton; Staines v Billericay; Stevenage Borough v Walthamstow Avenue; Uxbridge v Lewes; Woking v Walton and Hersham. Second division north: Aveley v Witham; Clapton v Harlow; Collier Row v Finchley; Haringey Borough v Ware; Hertford v Tring; Heybridge v Hornchurch; Rainham v Hemel Hempstead; Royston v Barton; Saffron Walden v Tilbury; Vauxhall Motors v Berkhamsted; Wivenhoe v Letchworth GC. Second division south: Banstead v Newbury; Camberley v Petersfield; Chertsey v Metropolitan Police; Egham v Harefield; Epsom and Ewell v Hungerford; Flackwell Heath v Feltham; Maidenhead United v Chalfont St Peter; Molesey v Horsham; Ruislip Manor v Dorking; Whyteleafe v Eastbourne United; Yeading v Southall.

Barclays League
First division

Arsenal v Sheffield Wed
Charlton v Everton
Derby v Watford
Luton v Norwich
Oxford v Newcastle
Portsmouth v Coventry
QPR v Manchester Utd
West Ham v Southampton
Wimbledon v Nottingham F

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Midland division: Bridgnorth v King's Lynn; Coventry Sporting v Atherstone; Forest Green v Mile Oak; Grantham v Dudley; Hednesford v Bilston; Merthyr Tydfil v Wellingborough; Moor Green v Gloucester; Paget v Halesowen; Rushden v Banbury; Stourbridge v Buckingham; Trowbridge v Sutton Coldfield. Southern division: Baldock v Tonbridge; Burnham v Dunstable; Canterbury v Gravesend and Northfleet; Dover v Andover; Erith and Belvedere v Chatham; Ruislip v Folkestone; Salisbury v Hastings; Sheppey v Hounslow; Thanet v Poole.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division (2.15): Barry v Port Talbot; Blaenrhondda v Ebbw Vale; Maesteg Park v Milford; Pembroke v Pontllanfraith; Ton Pentre v Llanelli. SA Brain Cup: Third round: AFC Cardiff v Taffs Well; Brecon v Merthyr; Bridgend v British Petroleum; Briton Ferry v Afan Lido; Caerleon v Cwmbran; Haverfordwest v Aberystwyth.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Melksham; Chippenham v Weston-super-Mare; Clandown v Liskeard; Clevedon v Bristol City; Exmouth v Frome; Minehead v Dawlish; Radstock v Plymouth Argyle; Swanage and Herston v Paulton; Torrington v Taunton (2.30).

DRYBROUGHS NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Blyth v South Bank (3.15); Consett v Guisborough; Newcastle Blue Star v North Shields; Whitby v Whitley Bay.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Raab Karcher Cup: Third round: Ford v Ellesmere Port and Neston; Oldham v Prescot Cables; St Helens v Glossop. First division: Clitheroe v Darwen; Colwyn Bay v Burscough; Formby v Colne; Kirkby v Warrington; Salford v Bootle; Skelmersdale v Leyland.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division (2.0): Armthorpe Welfare v Hatfield Main; Belper v Harrogate Railway (3.0); Bridlington Town v Brigg; Denaby v Bridlington Trinity; Hallam v Guiseley; Long Eaton v Grimethorpe MW; North Ferriby v Emley; Thackley v Pontefract Collieries (3.0).

Second division

A Villa v Swindon
Barnsley v WBA
Blackburn v Millwall
Bournemouth v Oldham
Hull v Reading
Ipswich v Bradford
Leeds v Birmingham
Leicester v Middlesbrough
Manchester C v C Palace
Plymouth v Shrewsbury
Sheffield Utd v Huddersfield

Third division

Chester v Doncaster

Freight Rover Trophy
Preliminary round

Darlington v Chesterfield

GM Vauxhall Conference

Cheltenham v Stafford
Dagenham v Barnet
Fisher v Telford
Wealdstone v Weymouth
Wycombe v Boston

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE (11.0): First division: Charlton v Ipswich; Chelsea v Arsenal; Fulham v Portsmouth; Gillingham v Cambridge; Millwall v Leyton Orient; Southend v Norwich; Tottenham v Queen's Park Rangers; Watford v West Ham. Second division: Bournemouth v Colchester; Brentford v Reading; Bristol City v Bristol Rovers; Brighton v Crystal Palace; Luton v Tottenham; Northampton v Wimbledon; Swindon v Oxford United.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE (2.0): Premier division: Old Chigwellians v Old Cholmeleians; Old Reptonians v Old Salopians. First division: Old Ardinians v Old Aldenhamians; Lancing Old Boys v Old Westminsters; Old Wellingburians v Old Bradfieldians; Old Wykehamists v Citizens (11.0).

GUINNESS DURHAM CUP: First round (2.15): Annfield Plain v Esh Winning; Billingham Synthonia v SC Vaux; Billingham Town v Brandon; Blackhall CW v Ryhope CA; Boldon CA v Tow Law; Cleveland Bridge v Coundon TT; Crook v Chester-le-Street; Darlington RA v Herrington CW; Easington v Cockfield; Ferryhill v Bishop Auckland; Hebburn Reyrolles v Peterlee; Shildon v Dawdon CW; Spennymoor v Newton Aycliffe; Stockton v Langley Park; West Auckland v Seaham Red Star; Whickham v Eppleton.

ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Second round: Brightlingsea v Brentwood.

HAMPSHIRE SENIOR CUP: Second round (2.0): Bournemouth v Waterlooville; Chichester v Wellworthy (at Havant FC); Horndean v Hartley Wintney; Petersfield v Fareham; Romsey v Bashley; Wimborne v Havant.

LANCASHIRE ATS TROPHY: First round: Bacup Borough v Rossendale. Replay: Atherton v Wren.

LINCOLNSHIRE CUP: First round: Spalding v Lincoln United; Stamford v Holbeach.

LONDON SENIOR CUP: Third round qualifying: Barkingside v Southgate; Beckenham v Bromley; Eton Manor v Penhill Standard; Ford v Beckton.

SUSSEX SENIOR CUP: Second round (2.0): Arundel v Eastbourne Town; Three Bridges v Hailsham Town (3.0); Whitehawk v Worthing. Second round replay: Langney v Peacehaven and Telscombe.

FA COUNTY YOUTH CUP: Second round: Berks and Bucks v Wiltshire (at Lambourn FC, 2.0); Cornwall v Devon (at Newquay FC, 2.0); Lincolnshire v Northamptonshire (at Bramby Hall, 1.45); Middlesex v Kent (at Hayes FC); Suffolk v Cambridgeshire (at Long Melford FC).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr Bruins v Streatham Redskins (7.0); Dundee Tigers v Durham Wasps (5.30); Whitley Warriors v Solihull Barons (5.30); Fife Flyers v Peterborough Pirates (6.0).

NORWICH UNION CUP: Final: Murrayfield Racers v Durham Wasps (at Kirkcaldy, 2.0).

LACROSSE

BRINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Boardman and Eccles v Old Hulmeians; Heaton Mersey v Old Waconians; Stockport v Cheadle; Rochdale v Sheffield University; Urmston v Mellor.

BRINE SOUTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Bath v Hampstead; Chipstead v Hillcroft; Kenton v London University.

Scottish FA Cup
First round

Albion v St Johnstone
Montrose v Ayr
Stirling v Cowdenbeath (at E Stirling)
Threave v Stranraer (2.15)
Vale of Leithen v Brechin (2.15)
Postponed: Inverness Caledonian v East Stirlingshire

Fine Fare Scottish League
Premier division

Dundee v Aberdeen
Dunfermline v Hibernian
Hearts v Falkirk
Morton v Celtic
Motherwell v St Mirren
Rangers v Dundee Utd

First division

Dumbarton v Meadowbank
E Fife v Kilmarnock
Forfar v Clyde
Hamilton v Clydebank
Partick v Aidrie
Queen of Sth v Raith

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: Guildford v Richmond; Hounslow v Slough; Reading v St Albans; Teddington v Spencer. League: Beckenham v Cheam; Cambridge University v Blackheath; London University v Bromley; Maidenhead v Weybridge Hawks; Mid-Surrey v Old Kingstonians; Oxford University v Southgate; Surbiton v Purley; Tulse Hill v Hampstead; Wimbledon v Dulwich.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division (2.15): Bedford v Cambridge City; Chelmsford v Norfolk Wanderers; Colchester v Peterborough Town; Ford v Broxbourne; Harleston Magpies v Bishop's Stortford; Ipswich v West Herts; Old Loughtonians v Blueharts; Westcliff v Bury St Edmunds.

McEWAN'S LAGER SOUTH LEAGUE (2.15): Premier division: Amersham v Tunbridge Wells; Anchorians v Fareham; Canterbury v Bognor; Eastcote v Trojans; East Grinstead v Gore Court; Havant v Oxford Hawks; Old Tauntonians v Lewes; Winchester v Indian Gymkhana. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Epsom; Basingstoke v Woking; Bournemouth and West Hampshire v Nat West Bank; Chichester v Camberley; Fleet v Metropolitan Police; Old Mid-Whitgiftians v Goan; Southampton University v Merton; US Portsmouth v Old Edwardians. Kent/Sussex: Gravesend v Old Beccehamians; Maidstone v Lloyds Bank; Marden Russets v Tonbridge; Middleton v Mid-Sussex; Old Bordenians v Herne Bay; Old Williamsonians v Thames Polytechnic; Sevenoaks v Rochester and Gillingham; Worthing v Folkestone. Middlesex/Berks, Bucks and Oxon: Bracknell v Witney; Gerrards Cross v British Airways; Hayes v Reading University; Hendon v Aylesbury; Lyons v City of Oxford; Marlow v Old Merchant Taylors; NPL v Harrow Town Swans; Tilehurst v Sunbury.

WILSON LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v Bloxwich; Cannock v Olton and West Warwickshire; Chesterfield v Harborne; Derby v Pickwick; Khalsa v Wombourne; Kidderminster v South Nottingham; Stone v Coventry and North Warwickshire; Stourport v Leicester Westleigh.

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK ENGLISH LEAGUE: First division men: Dragonara Leeds v Speedwell Rucanor (6.30); Malory v Polonia (6.30); Redwood Lodge v Atlas Wessex (7.15); Spark Crook Log v Capital City (6.0); Staffordshire Moorlands v Liverpool City (7.30); WH White Poole v Radio Trent Rockets (5.45). First division women: Portsmouth Heatseal v Dragonara Leeds (3.30).

ROYAL BANK SCOTTISH LEAGUE: First division men: Dundee Kirkton v Glasgow Gregg; East Kilbride v Bellshill Cardinals; Team A-Plant DV v Team Scottish Farm; Team Fife v Kinleith Plant. First division women: Inverclyde v Provincial Insurance; Kyle v Glasgow Bannerman; Larbert v Carluke Brannock; Wheatsheaf Jets v Team Scottish Farm.

OTHER SPORT

BOXING: International middleweight contest: Herol Graham (GB) v Ricky Stackhouse (US) (at Adwick leisure centre, Doncaster).

DARTS: Winmau World championships (at Kensington).

RUGBY UNION

B INTERNATIONAL

Scotland v Italy (at Seafield, Aberdeen, 2.0)

TOSHIBA DIVISIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

North v London (at Otley, 2.15)
South West v Midlands (at Bristol)

COURAGE CLUBS CHAMPIONSHIP

Second division

Bedford v Gosforth
Saracens v Lpool St Helens (2.30)

Third division

Morley v Birmingham (2.30)
Wakefield v Nuneaton (2.30)
W Hartlepool v Plymouth (2.15)

South area

Southend v Camborne (2.15)

CLUB MATCHES

Abertillery v Bridgend
Bath v London Scottish
Broughtn Pk v Middlsbrough (2.30)
Cardiff v Swansea
Cross Keys v Newbridge
Durham v Huddersfield (2.30)
Ebbw Vale v Maesteg
Exeter v Walsall (2.30)
Fylde v Northern (2.15)
Gala v Preston Grsprs (2.15)
Harlequins v Blackheath (at Stoop Memorial Gd, 2.15)
Hartlpool R v Stewart's M FP (2.15)
Leicester v Gloucester
London Irish v Met Police (2.30)
London Welsh v Aberavon (2.15)
Moseley v Headingley
Neath v Orrell
Newport v Bristol
Northampton v Llanelli
Nottingham v Loughborough S
Penarth v Lydney
Pontypool v Glamorgan W
Pontypridd v Sale
Richmond v Coventry (2.15)
Rugby v Halifax (2.30)
Tredegar v S Glamorgan Inst
Vale of Lune v Harrogate (2.15)
Wasps v Rosslyn Park
Waterloo v Manchester (2.15)

ULSTER CLUB MATCHES

Academy v Brothers Townsville
Ballinasloe v City of Derry
Blackrock College v CIYMS
Ballymena v Melrose
Collegians v Instonians
Queen's University v University College Galway
Ards v Armagh
Bangor v Landsdowne
De La Salle/Palmerston v Portadown
Skerries v Malone

McEWAN'S SCOTTISH INTER-DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP

South v Glasgow (at Melrose, 2.0)

LONDON AND SOUTH EAST: Bisley Office Equipment Southern Merit Table: Basingstoke v Reading; High Wycombe v Havant; Newbury v Maidenhead. British Car Auctions Old Boys Merit Table: Old Alleynians v Old Blues; Old Beccehamians v Old Elthamians; Old Colfeians v Old Mid-Whitgiftians; Old Hamptonians v Old Walcountians; Old Rutlishians v Old Dunstonians; Old Wimbledonians v KCS Old Boys. Foster Beard Middlesex Merit Table: Barclays Bank v Twickenham. Tandem Computers Seven Counties Merit Table: Maidstone v Upper Clapton; Oxford v Woodford; Streatham-Croydon v Thurrock. Club matches: Antlers v Feltham; Ashford v Medway; Becavians v Old Albanians; Bank of England v Richmond Thamesians; Barnet v Hendon; Beaconsfield v Tring; Bec Old Boys v John Fisher Old Boys; Chelmsford v Ipswich; Cheshunt v Fullerians; Chingford v Park House; Civil Service v Staines; Dartfordians v Bromley; Dorking v Horsham; Esher v Cheltenham; Esso v Winchester; Farnham v Isle of Wight; Gillingham Anchorians v Snowdown CW; Greenwich v Erith; Harpenden v Datchworth; Harwich v Woodbridge; Hemel Hempstead v Bishop's Stortford; Hove v Shirley Wanderers; Kingston v Mitcham; Leighton Buzzard v Letchworth; Lewes v Worthing; Lloyds Bank v Nat West Bank; London French v Shene Old Grammarians; Mill Hill v Aylesbury; New Ash Green v Thanet Wanderers; North Walsham v Old Cantabrigians; Norwich v Bedford Wanderers; Old Abbotstonians v Old Merchant Taylors; Old Cryptians v Oxford Old Boys; Old Elizabethans v Biggleswade; Old Gaytonians v Old Kingsburians; Old Isleworthians v Old Wandsworthians; Old Juddians v Tunbridge Wells; Old Shootershillians v Beckenham; Old Tiffinians v Old Brocklesians; Old Westcliffians v Old Grammarians; Petersfield v Alton; Phoenix v Meadhurst; Pinner and Grammarians v Old Pennanians; Purley v Brighton; Redbridge v Ipswich YMCA; Redingensians v Bath United; Richmond Vikings v Grasshoppers; Rochford Hundred v Eton Manor; Saffron Walden v Old Verulamians; Sevenoaks v Gravesend; Shelford v Bury St Edmunds; Sidcup v Ealing; Stroud v Old Whitgiftians; Sudbury Court v Roxeth Manor Old Boys; Sutton and Epsom v Crawley; Tabard v Hertford; Trojans v Guildford and Godalming; University Vandals v Midland Bank; Wanstead v Charlton Park; Warlingham v Old Reigatians; Wasps Vandals v West London Institute; Welwyn v Ruislip; Wembley v Hitchin; Windsor v Slough.

DORSET AND WILTSHIRE CUP: Second round: Devizes v Melksham; Dorchester v Bridport; Lychett Minster v Marlborough; RA Larkhill v Supermarine; Sherborne v Salisbury; Swindon v Westbury; Weymouth v Bournemouth; Wimborne v Chippenham.

MIDLANDS: Club matches: Aston OE v Handsworth; Aston University v Trent Polytechnic; Atherstone v Rugeley; Barker's Butts v Towcestrians; Birmingham City Officials v Standard; Birmingham Civil Service v Newport Civil Service; Birmingham University v Old Yardleians; Birmingham Welsh v Dunlop; Birstall v Belgrave; Boston v Lincoln; Bridgnorth v Shrewsbury; Broad Street v Stoke Old Boys; Bromsgrove v Kenilworth; Burton v Old Leamingtonians; Camp Hill v Mellish; Chesterfield v Newark; Dudley Kingswinford v Edwardians; Erdington v West Midlands Police; Evesham v Drybrook; Five Ways v Newport; Harper Adams v Warwick University; Hinckley v Burton; Ilkeston v GEC Coventry; Kidderminster Carolians v Redditch; Leamington v Stratford; Lichfield v Wolverhampton; Loughborough v Aylestone St James; Luctonians v Oxonians; Lutterworth v Wellingborough OG; Morley v Birmingham; Oadby-Wyggestonians v Kettering; Old Halesonians v Woodrush; Old Laurentians v Manor Park; Old Longtonians v Crewe and Nantwich; Old Northamptonians v Vipers; Old Saltleians v Old Newtonians; Old Wheatleyans v Old Centrals; Oswestry v Unley; Peterborough v Huntingdon; Solihull v Stafford; Southwell v Nottingham University; Stamford v Kesteven; Stoneygate v Paviors; Stourbridge v Weston-super-Mare; Sutton Coldfield v Stoke; Telford v Hereford; Trentham v Newcastle; Warrington v Whitchurch; Westleigh v Matlock; West Leicester v Earlsdon; Worksop v East Retford.

NORTH: Club matches: Acklam v Wharfedale; Aspatria v Winnington Park; Baildon v Colne and Nelson; Barnsley v Wheatley Hills; Beverley v Goole; Bradford Salem v Skipton; Bramley v Ilkley; Bridlington v West Hartlepool Stags; Calder Vale v Manchester University; Caldy v Heaton Moor; Cleckheaton v Old Otliensians; Doncaster v Castleford; Grimsby v Scunthorpe; Hornsea v Hessle; Huddersfield YMCA v Otley Saracens; Hull and ER v Bradford and Bingley; Hullensians v Hull and ER Spartan; Ionians v Pocklington; Kendal v Blaydon; Knottingley v Wibsey; Moortown v Rochdale; New Brighton v Chester; Oldham v Thornensians; Old Hymerians v Driffield; Old Modernians v Heath; Pontefract v Old Crossleyans; Ripon v Northallerton; Rodillians v Leodiensians; Roundhegians v Keighley; Sandal v Sunderland; Scarborough v Sheffield Tigers; Selby v Old Brodleians; Sheffield v Davenport; Southport v Littleborough; Thornensians v Oldham; Wakefield Wasps v Dinnington; Warrington v Whitchurch; Wath-on-Dearne v Mansfield; West Leeds v Malton and Norton; West Park v Wilmslow; Whitby v Leeds CSSA; Widnes v Lymm; Wrexham v Birkenhead Park; Yarnbury v Leeds University; York RI v York.

RUGBY LEAGUE

BARLA BURTONWOOD LANCASHIRE CUP: Final: Leigh MW v Farnworth ROB (at Hilton Park, Leigh, 2.30).

SLALOM LAGER NATIONAL AMATEUR LEAGUE (2.30): Dudley Hill v Woolston; Egremont v St Patrick's; Heworth v Pilkington; Millom v Milford.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE (8.0): Birmingham v Hemel and Watford; Manchester United v Bracknell; Oldham v Crystal Palace; Portsmouth v Bolton and Bury.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (men) (8.0): Ellesmere Port v Worthing; Market Harborough v Cardiff.

NATIONAL TROPHY (men): Quarter-final: Stevenage v North London College (8.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division women: Kingston v London Jets (8.0); Stockport v Northampton (8.0).

BOWLS

TOURNAMENT: Midland Bank World indoor pairs championship (at Bournemouth).

INDOOR COUNTY MATCH: Berkshire v Buckinghamshire (at West Berkshire).

TOMORROW

F A Cup
Second round

Macclesfield v Rotherham (2.0)
Northwich v Blackpool (12.0)

Barclays League
First division

Liverpool v Chelsea (2.35)

FA COUNTY YOUTH CUP: Second round replay: Army v Sussex (at Aldershot FC, 2.0).

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Cornwall v South Korea (at Redruth, 2.15).

DEVON CUP: First round (2.45): Tiverton v Devon and Cornwall Police.

ESSEX CUP: Quarter-final: Harlow v Barking (2.30).

BASS HAMPSHIRE COUNTY CUP: Third round (2.30): Eastleigh v Winchester; Gosport and Fareham v Basingstoke; Millbrook v US Portsmouth; New Milton v Jersey; Portsmouth v Alton; Sandown and Shanklin v Portsmouth Polytechnic; Southampton University v Southampton.

HERTFORDSHIRE PRESIDENTS' CUP: Second Round (2.30): Hatfield Polytechnic v Barnet; Old Elizabethans v Cheshunt; Tabard v Old Albanians.

MIDDLESEX CUP: Third round (2.30): Bank of England v Haringey; Ealing v London Cornish; Finchley v Grasshoppers; Hendon v West London Institute; King's College v Harrow; Old Abbotstonians v Richmond Thamesians; Old Merchant Taylors v Old Haberdashers; Orleans FP v Centaurs; Sudbury Court v Upper Clapton.

OXFORDSHIRE MORLAND BREWERY CUP: Second round (2.30): Banbury v Oxford Old Boys; Grove v Oxford University Greyhounds; Harwell v Henley; Oxford Marathon v RMCS Shrivenham; Wheatley v Thames Valley Police; Witney v Chinnor; RAF Brize Norton v Oxford.

SUSSEX COUNTY CUP: Second round (2.0): Bognor v Brighton Polytechnic; Crawley v Midhurst; Crowborough v Chichester; Eastbourne v East Grinstead; Hove v Worthing; Old Brightonians v Hellingly; Seaford v Horsham; Uckfield v Lewes.

UNDER-21 REPRESENTATIVE MATCH: London Irish v Army (at Sunbury, 2.30).

SOUTHERN COUNTIES UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Cambridgeshire v Essex (at Cambridge RFC, 2.15).

CLUB MATCH: Veor v Redruth Albany (11.0).

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: Bradford v Halifax (3.30); Hull KR v St Helens (2.30); Leeds v Castleford; Salford v Hunslet; Warrington v Swinton; Widnes v Hull; Wigan v Leigh. Second division: Batley v Sheffield (2.30); Bramley v Mansfield (3.30); Carlisle v Runcorn; Featherstone v Barrow (3.30); Fulham v Workington (2.30); Huddersfield v Keighley (3.30); Oldham v Doncaster; Wakefield v Rochdale (3.30); York v Dewsbury (2.15).

BARLA BASS CUMBRIA CUP: Final: Wath Brow Hornets v Kells (at Recreation ground, Whitehaven, 3.30).

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: Livingston v Sunderland (2.0).

NATIONAL LEAGUE (men) (4.0): Lambeth v Gateshead; Tower Hamlets v Aberdare.

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division women: Ipswich v Crystal Palace (3.0); Lambeth v Nottingham (2.0).

BOWLS

TOURNAMENT: Midland Bank World indoor pairs championship (at Bournemouth).

INDOOR COUNTY MATCHES: Berkshire v Hertfordshire (at West Berkshire); Cornwall v Devon (at Bodmin); Hampshire v Surrey (at Atherley).

MIDLAND COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP: Nottinghamshire v Warwickshire (at Gedling).

CRICKET

WEBSTER'S NATIONAL INDOOR LEAGUE: Northern zone: Derby v Rochdale (12.0); Hull v Liverpool (6.45); Sheffield v Warrington (6.30); Stockport v Manchester (12.30). Midlands zone: Cradley Heath v Leicester (6.0); Nottingham North v Wellingborough (11.30); Peterborough v Solihull (6.30); Wolverhampton v Walsall (6.20). Southern zone: Dartford v Totton (12.0); Docklands v Hounslow (7.30); Fareham v Canterbury (7.30); Ipswich v Tottenham (6.30).

HANDBALL

BRITISH LEAGUE (men): Birkenhead v EK '82 (3.0); Milton Keynes v Great Dane (2.30); Strathclyde University v Manchester United SSS (3.0); Tryst '77 v Liverpool (3.0); Wakefield v Kirkby Select (3.0).

BRITISH LEAGUE (women): EK '82 v Wakefield Metros (5.0); Tryst v Wakefield Metros (1.30).

HOCKEY

HOCKEY ASSOCIATION CUP: Third round (1.30): Indian Gymkhana v Olton and West Warwickshire; Old Loughtonians v Derby; Slough v East Grinstead; Southgate v Firebrands.

COUNTY MATCHES: Leicester v RAF (at Loughborough Town HC); Norfolk v Berkshire (at Dereham HC).

COUNTY UNDER-21 MATCH: Leicestershire v RAF (at Loughborough Town HC).

SOUTHERN COUNTIES UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Buckinghamshire v Berkshire (at Wokingham HC); Middlesex v Surrey (at Feltham School, 2.30).

REPRESENTATIVE: Midlands U21 v Midlands U18 v Great Britain Polytechnics (at Perry Park, Birmingham).

MIDLAND INDOOR CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Preliminary round (at Cocks Moors Woods, John Player, Perdiswell).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr Bruins v Fife Flyers (7.0); Dundee Tigers v Peterborough Pirates (7.0); Durham Wasps v Whitley Warriors (6.30); Murrayfield Racers v Streatham Redskins (6.30); Solihull Barons v Nottingham Panthers (6.30).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK ENGLISH LEAGUE: First division women: Speedwell Bristol v Dragonara Leeds (12.30).

ROYAL BANK CUP (women): Quarter-finals: Ashcombe v Chelmsford Partners; Istan v Arsenal Britannia; Sale v Bradford Mythbreakers (5.30); Spark v Colchester.

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Welsh championships (at Cardiff).

FENCING: Women's team foil championship (at de Beaumont centre, West Kensington).

KARATE: Six nations grand slam (at Coatbridge).

MOTOR SPORT: Motaquip British Rallycross Grand Prix (at Brands Hatch).

REAL TENNIS: British open championship (at Hampton Court).

SNOOKER: Foster's World doubles championship (at Northampton).

SQUASH RACKETS: InterCity National championships (at Old Station, Bristol).

SWIMMING: Sun Life Diving Cup (at Crystal Palace); BPSA championships (at Leicester).

TENNIS: Home countries tournament (Men and Under-18 boys at Telford, Women at Glasgow, Girls at Dublin).

SPORT ON TV

BOXING: Live international middleweight contest: Herol Graham (GB) v Ricky Stackhouse (US) from the Adwick leisure centre, Doncaster. BBC1: 10.15 p.m.

DARTS AND SNOOKER: Winmau World masters from the Rainbow Suite, Kensington and Foster's World doubles championship from Derngate centre, Northampton. ITV: 2.15-4.45 p.m.

GRANDSTAND: Football focus. Skiing: Women's downhill championship from Val d'Isère, France. Racing: 1.0, 1.30 and 2.05 races from Chepstow. Diving: Sun Life Cup from Crystal Palace. Boxing: World flyweight title eliminator: Dave McAuley v Roy Thompson (Panama) from Belfast. Motor Sport: Lombard RAC rally. Ice Hockey: Norwich Union Autumn Cup final from Kirkcaldy. Final score: 4.35 p.m. BBC1: 12.15-5.05 p.m.

RACING: 12.55, 1.25, 2.0 and 2.30 races from Sandown Park. C4: 12.45 p.m.

SAINT AND GREAVSIE: ITV: 1.05 p.m. Results service: 4.45 p.m.

SNOOKER: Foster's World doubles championship: Further coverage from Northampton. ITV: 10.35 p.m.

TRIATHLON: Highlights of the recent Nice triathlon championships. ITV: 4.55 a.m. (tomorrow).

Tomorrow

AMERICAN FOOTBALL: Highlights from America's National Football League. C4: 6 p.m.

BASEBALL: World series: St Louis Cardinals v Minnesota Twins, sixth game. ITV: 4.55 a.m. (Monday).

BOWLS: Midland Bank World indoor pairs championship from Bournemouth. BBC2: 2.40 and 10.20 p.m. and 12 a.m.

FOOTBALL: Big match live: Liverpool v Chelsea from Anfield. ITV: 2.30 p.m.

RUGBY SPECIAL: Highlights of Toshiba Divisional Championship: North v London from Otley and from Wales: Pontypool v Glamorgan Wanderers. BBC2: 2 p.m.

SKI SUNDAY: Men's downhill from Val d'Isère, France. BBC2: 5.50 p.m.

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RACING

Improving Celtic Shot to take advantage of lenient Sandown mark

By Mandarin
(Michael Phillips)

Few marks will be given for suggesting that Celtic Shot can win the Mecca Bookmakers Handicap Hurdle at Sandown Park today.

Yet, having seen him win his two races this season by 25 lengths and 10 lengths, that is my unavoidable conclusion.

Fred Winter's five-year-old was not the best of jumpers last season and for that reason he started this campaign with a low rating.

But now that he has got his act together his form has improved immeasurably and he will never have a better chance of winning a handicap of this value because his official rating has gone up from 49 to 67 in the past four weeks.

So even with a small penalty he still looks very leniently treated indeed with 10st 6lb to carry.

On a point of handicapping, Ghofar is not out of it either. When he and Santopadre finished third and fourth, respectively, behind Celtic Chief and Osric in the Gerry Feilden Hurdle at Newbury a week ago he was giving Santopadre 3lb. Now he receives 13lb from him.

But like Beat The Retreat, Sprowston Boy, Cool Strike and Cashew King, Ghofar would be ideally suited by a bit more cut in the ground.

In the prevailing conditions *Stepaside Lord, Ballydurrow,* Chrysaor and String Player could form the nucleus of Celtic Shot's opposition.

It is interesting to note that Ballydurrow and Chrysaor were second and third in the corresponding race 12 months ago which Chrysaor won the year before that.

Hwyel Davies fancied for Chepstow double

Like Celtic Shot, **Swingit Gunner** will be faced with harder tasks in the future after slaughtering quite a strong field at Ayr a fortnight ago.

So he looks a decent bet to win the Doug Barrott Handicap Hurdle even with a 6lb penalty, and he is my nap.

Although it was soft at Ayr Swingit Gunner has shown that he can handle better ground. He did so at Doncaster in the autumn when he ran two cracking races on the Flat.

For many, the high moment of today's racing will be Desert Orchid's attempt to win the *Tingle Creek Handicap Chase* with 12st on his back.

The winner of five races on the Esher track already, David Elsworth's exciting grey is such a versatile horse that he should be capable of outstaying and outclassing his four rivals, led by Long Engagement.

Hypnosis (12.55) could be another winner for Elsworth and his jockey Colin Brown.

If Long Engagement fails to beat their flying grey, consolation for both David Nicholson and Richard Dunwoody should not be long coming in the form of **Against The Grain**, who should capture the Ewell Chase.

When he finished behind Foyle Fisherman at Ascot, a fortnight ago, the distance was clearly inadequate and he will be much better suited to today's longer trip.

For those who put store in the saying "never two without three", **Western Sunset** will appeal as a good bet to win the John Mowlem Homes Rehearsal Chase at Chepstow even though last year's winner, Cybrandian, is in the field again.

Trainer Tim Forster has already won two chases this week for his owner Simon Sainsbury with Care and Clara Mountain.

Hywel Davies, Western Sunset's jockey, can also win the EBF Novices' Hurdle on **Grenagh**, but I doubt him landing the Horizon Chase on Hiz now that **Doubleton** has stood his ground.

At Wetherby, I give Malcolm Jefferson's useful four-year-old **Tancred Sand** a decent chance of winning the ATS Handicap Hurdle following that runaway victory at Newcastle a week ago.

At Nottingham, **Taberna Lord** looks a must to win the South Yorkshire Road Specialists Novices' Chase over 2¾ miles. Formerly a smart hurdler over this distance, he was *runner-up to* City Entertainer in their first race over fences at Worcester.

That form would now be looking even better if only City Entertainer had beaten Jim Thorpe at Newcastle last Saturday instead of falling two out when the prize was at his mercy.

Francis takes over at Windy Hollow

By Dick Hinder

Merrick Francis, son of author Dick Francis, received Jockey Club permission yesterday to train at Windy Hollow, Lambourn, the yard purchased by Avery Whitfield from former champion National Hunt jockey John Francome.

Miss Whitfield, aged 32, had her application for a full trainer's licence turned down because of lack of experience, although the Jockey Club was prepared to *grant her a permit.*

Now Miss Whitfield will become assistant to Francis, who will run this second yard in conjunction with his present stable at Folly House in Upper Lambourn Road.

Francis, attending Newmarket December Sales yesterday, said: "I'm very pleased with the new arrangement. Avery will be my assistant for both yards. It will enable me to expand and provide her with a bit more experience.

"She is very keen and knowledgable and I'm optimistic it will work out well for both of us."

Francis will be at Sandown Park today to saddle one of Miss Whitfield's horses, Detroit Sam, in the big race of the day, the Mecca Bookmakers' Handicap Hurdle.

Miss Whitfield said: "I'm very happy with the new arrangement, and, depending on the results, I'll probably reapply for a full licence after the end of next Flat season."

She became involved in racing when her late father, John, who had a permit, trained point-to-pointers in the 1970s.

She had her own horses with Taffy Salaman from 1978-81 and 1984-85 and Duncan Sasse in the 1982-83 season and worked with her own horses in those stables. Detroit Sam, the *best of her five jumpers,* was bought privately out of Reg Akehurst's for 15,000 guineas.

Francome handed in his trainer's licence last month after he was refused planning permission to build a new yard on the outskirts of Lambourn. He now lives in a small cottage close to the Stan Mellor and Peter Walwyn stables.

As well as organising his successful Racing and Punters Club, Francome, who will be 35 on Sunday week, has various business activities including a fish and chip shop in Swindon and is one of the most entertaining after-dinner speakers on the racing circuit.

● Another Lambourn trainer, Peter Walwyn, broke his right arm after been kicked by one of Merrick Francis's horses on the Lambourn gallops on Thursday.

OFFICIAL SCRATCHINGS: All engagements (dead): *Opening Night, Brave Empress, Sound Argument, Lilstide, Cresun, Blackfeet, Greed, Pension Plan.*

Slalom eyes slopes at Cheltenham

Slalom made light work of beating his opponents in the Chrysalis Winter Novices' Hurdle at Sandown Park yesterday and will now be aimed at the Sun Alliance Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival.

Trainer Michael Robinson, in only his first full season, has high hopes of this former Irish novice he picked up at Doncaster for 14,500 guineas.

"He's a tremendous mover for a big horse and Cheltenham will really suit him. John White said he was a different horse from when he won on the heavy at Wolverhampton last time." Slalom will probably next run in the Challow Hurdle at Newbury in January.

Richard Dunwoody bounced back from injury to steer Button Your Lip to victory in the Bookham Novices' Chase. Dunwoody sustained a bruised hand in a fall at Hereford on Wednesday, but showed no ill-effects as his mount got up to beat Direct Approach on the run-in.

Tim Forster was full of praise for stable jockey Hywel Davies after Clara Mountain made all the running to land the Palace Handicap Chase. "It was a fine jumping performance, and Hywel gave him a great ride," he said.

● Big Togger finished first in the Partridge Handicap Chase at Southwell yesterday, but was disqualified because his jockey Neil Fearn lost the weight cloth during the race.

Results from yesterday's three meetings

Sandown Park

Going: good

12.55 (2m 4f 68yd ch) 1, CLARA MOUNTAIN (H Davies, 7-2; Mandarin's nap); 2, Malya Mal (P Scudamore, 11-2); 3, Brave Hussar (R Goldstein, 11-1). ALSO RAN: 2 fav Summons (4th), 5 French Union (5th), 6 Welsh Oak (6th), 33 Evening Song, 100 Conclusive. 8 ran. 3l, ½l, ¾l, ½l, 15l. T Forster at Wantage. Tote: £3.00; £1.40, £1.60, £1.80. DF: £8.80. CSF: £21.06. Tricast: £170.48.

1.25 (3m 118yd ch) 1, BUTTON YOUR LIP (R Dunwoody, 9-1); 2, Direct Approach (R Rowe, 2-1 fav); 3, Pacific Place (P Scudamore, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Friendly Henry (5th), 5 Met Officer (pu), 13-2 Suffolk Downs (4th), 12 Double Up (pu), 50 Golden Ozy (6th), 66 Crocsox (ro). 9 ran. 3l, 1½l, 6l, not recorded, 6l. D Nicholson at Stow-On-The-Wold. Tote: £10.10; £1.80, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £25.10. CSF: £26.10.

2.0 (2m 5f 75yd hdle) 1, SLALOM (J White, 5-4 fav); 2, Sir's At The Gin (E Murphy, 6-1); 3, Black Monkey (R Dunwoody, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 13-8 Rowlandsons Jewels (5th), 12 Winter Haven (4th), 20 Welsh Bluebell (6th), 33 Gex, 50 Mr Lion (pu), 100 Grahames Paddy (pu). 9 ran. NR: Anything Better. 6l, 5l, ¾l, 1l, dist. M Robinson at Wantage. Tote: £3.00; £1.20, £1.70, £1.50. DF: £7.10. CSF: £10.70.

2.30 (3m 5f 18yd ch) 1, FAIR CHILD (P Croucher, 6-1); 2, Dart Over (P Richards, 6-1); 3, My Major (K Mooney, 6-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Eton Rouge (6th), 6 Steel Yeoman, 7 Harvest Fortune (5th), 8 Insure (f), 9 Knock Hill, 20 Memberson (4th), 66 Doddy's Special (f). 10 ran. 1½l, 10l, 1l, 4l, nk. D Murray-Smith at Upper Lambourn. Tote: £8.70; £2.20, £2.20, £2.30. DF: £37.60. CSF: £37.85. Tricast: £203.18.

3.0 (2m hdle) 1, DEEP TREASURE (P Scudamore, 13-8 fav); 2, Great Destiny (H Davies, 7-1); 3, Fishermans Tale (Steve Knight, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 6 Ryco, 7 Daybrook's Gift, Danny's Luck (f), 8 Another Coral (f), 14 Border King, 20 Ring Of Secrets (5th), Rod Of Iron, 25 Gaelic Frolic, 33 Billbrook (6th), 33 Major Buskins (pu), Man On The Line (4th), Sambridge, War Dancer, Miss Giggles 17 ran. 1l, 12l, 3l, 4l. F Winter at Lambourn. Tote: £2.70; £1.60, £2.30, £4.10. DF: £9.30. CSF: £15.15

3.30 (2m hdle) 1, WAHIBA (N Coleman, 16-1); 2, South Parade (G Bradley, 15-8 fav); 3, Special (R Dunwoody, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 3 Homeman, 11-2 Royal Illusion (5th), 6 Lakipour, 10 Thornfield (6th), 25 Bags, Sandalla Sam, 33 Clear The Decks, Gilt Bronze (4th), Icarus, Ta Wardle (f), The Main Man. 14 ran. 1½l, 6l, hd, 3l, 2l. R Holder at Bristol. Tote: £21.00; £3.40, £1.60, £2.90. DF: £23.50. CSF: £47.38.
Jackpot: not won (Pool of £1,868.80 carried forward to Sandown today)
Placepot: £57.25

Bangor

Going: soft (heavy patches)

12.45 (2m 60yd hdle) 1, EXPERIMENTING (D Murphy, 6-4 fav); 2, Prisindante (R Hyett, 7-1); 3, Wedding Talk (S J O'Neill, 100-30). ALSO RAN: 7 Greenhills Girl (6th), 12 Do Or Die, Quality Chorister (f), 14 Mount Harvard (5th), 16 Super Tek, 20 Smiling Laurel, Gun-Carriage (4th), 33 Clever Angie (pu), Kimacaro, Lottie Limejuice, Pialuci, 50 Horse-A-Risk, Slinty Hill, The Chalicewell. 17 ran. NR: Nero's Fiddle. 8l, 6l, ¾l, 12l, 1½l. B Curley at Newmarket. Tote: £2.60; £1.80, £4.40, £1.40. DF: £193.80. CSF: £14.84. Bought in 5,800gns.

1.15 (3m ch) 1, PACIFISTE (C Grant, 1-2 fav); 2, Wee William (G Davies, 11-2); 3, Dennis Auburn (C Cowley, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 11-2 Grockle (f), 16 Patrick's Fair (f), 100 Alabama (pu). 6 ran. 6l, 12l. Mrs M Dickinson at Harewood. Tote: £1.30; £1.20, £1.80. DF: £3.60. CSF: £3.76.

1.45 (2m hdle) 1, GOULDSWOOD (D J Burchell, 5-2); 2, Birwaz (S Moore, 8-1); 3, Prideaux (S Cusack, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 15-8 fav Ragtime Solo (6th), 5 Valverde (5th), 10 Foreign Knight (4th), 50 Reddy Girl (pu). 7 ran. 20l, 8l, 15l, 4l, sh hd. D Burchell at Ebbw Vale. Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £3.70. DF: £23.50. CSF £19.12.

2.15 (2m 4f ch) 1, RICHARD LIONHEART (S J O'Neill, 8-4) finished alone. ALSO RAN: 6-5 fav Apodemus (f), 9-2 Fine Raise (f). 3 ran. NR: Bergen Baby. R Peacock, Tarporley. Tote: £1.90. DF: winner any other horse, £1.10. CSF: winner with any other horse, £2.25.

2.45 (2m 4f 20yd hdle) 1, ARCTIC CALL (C Grant, 5-2); 2, Actias (D J Burchell, 8-1); 3, Garrison Savannah (M Pitman, 11-10 fav). ALSO RAN: 8 Salcombe, 33 Another Dollar (pu), Cherry Brave (4th), *Pikemaso,* Up River (pu), Tropwen Winbourne, 50 Courtbrook (6th), Fern Hollow (pu), Golden Seam (pu), Today Eddy (5th), Hargate Lady (pu). 14 ran. 2½l, 4l, 20l, 12l, 2½l. Mrs M Dickinson at Harewood. Tote: £3.70; £1.90, £2.10, £1.10. DF: £13.00. CSF: £22.23.

3.15 (2m 60yd hdle) 1, KING OF THE LOT (C Grant, 8-15 fav); 2, Scale Model (P Shepherdson, 33-1); 3, The Dabber (P Tuck, 50-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Hope Cove (5th), 5 Pershing (4th). 5 ran. 3l, 2l, 2½l, 12l. R Lee at Presteigne. Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £8.10. DF: £10.80. CSF: £11.49.

3.45 (2m ch) 1, KILSYTH (S Davies, 7-4); 2, Bonkerias (K Ryan, 8-11 fav); 3, Sandwalker (M Price, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 16 Cyprus Sky (pu). 4 ran. 8l, 12l. Miss S Wilton, Stoke-on-Trent. Tote: £2.50. DF: £1.30. CSF: £3.29. Placepot: £10.20

Southwell

Going: soft

12.30 (3m 110yd ch) 1, Warner's End (A Webb, 4-1 jt-fav); 2, Vulnerable (S Mitchell, 25-1); 3, Alabi (G Landau, 10-1). ALSO RAN: 4 jt-fav Aisling Gael (pu), 5 Orchid Bay (ur), 6 Ballyanragh (pu), Big Togger, 7 Tiber (f), *20 Mr Pinkerton (f),* Noble Music (pu), 33 General Advance (bd), Milton Park (pu), Gold Express, Bruneval (f), Quiet Star (f). 15 ran. 3l, 30l, ¾l. J Webber at Banbury. Tote: £6.90; £2.20, £23.10, £4.40. DF: £170.40. CSF: £91.17. Tricast: £865.45. Big Togger finished first, but following an objection by the clerk of the scales for failing to draw the correct weight and after a stewards' inquiry was disqualified.

1.0 (2m 4f hdle) 1, DAUNTING PROSPECT (M Richards, 5-1); 2, Rapscallion (M Ahern, 7-4); 3, Chill Sky (M Bosley, 8-1). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Julio's Lad (5th), 11 Near Heaven (4th). 5 ran. 12l, 1l, dist, 12l. P Hedger at Chichester. Tote: £3.40; £1.00, £4.30. DF: £3.90. CSF: £14.49. No bid.

1.30 (3m 110yd) 1, BALLY-GO (D Dutton, 5-1); 2, Randomly (C Dennis, 7-4 fav); 3, Brig O'Balgownie (P Niven, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 2 Lesmiera Lad (pu), 14 Ebony Bill (f), Captain Lowe (f). 6 ran. nk, dist. Jimmy Fitzgerald at Malton. Tote: £4.10; £2.60, £2.20. DF: £5.40. CSF: £13.64.

2.0 (2m 74yd ch) 1, SILENT ECHO (Miss G Armytage, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, The Diplomat (Mrs S McKeever, 7-1); 3, Indian (S Johnson, 11-4 jt-fav). ALSO RAN: 6 Hopeful Mission (pu), Sir Lester (pu), 13-2 Branston Bell (f), 20 Newgrove Lad (pu), 25 Newmarket Sausage (4th). 8 ran. 1l, 10l, 7l. A Blackmore at Hertford. Tote: £3.60; £1.60, £2.20, £1.10. DF: £4.80. CSF: £20.60. Tricast: £51.76.

2.30 (2m 4f hdle) 1, CHRISTO (A Carroll, 100-30); 2, Cassute (J McLaughlin, 7-2); 3, Pyleigh Court (C Llewellyn, 9-4 fav). ALSO RAN: 5 See You There (4th), 8 Some Mug (5th), 10 Red In The Morning, 16 Old Malton, 20 Gorman Castle, Elvington, Velvet Touch (pu), 25 Banzai Banzai, Frannigan, 33 Terie Tomo (6th), Dorothy Might (pu). 14 ran. NR: Scotch Hall. 1½l, 7l, 1l, 1l, 20l. D Wintle at Westbury-on-Severn. Tote: £5.80; £2.00, £2.80, £2.70. DF: £9.00. CSF: £18.09.

3.0 (2m hdle) 1, CAFFIERI (P Harley, 6-1); 2, Starwood (R Fahey, 6-4 fav); 3, Nippy Chippy (S Mitchell, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 5 Master Lamb, 14 Kasu (4th), 16 Castlevennon (5th), Doff, Hobournes (6th), 20 Sweet Rosa, 25 Hawaiian Heir, Classic Owen, Otley. 12 ran. NR: Haddon Lad. 2l, hd, 4l, 15l, 8l. T Casey at Adstone. Tote: £5.40; £2.30, £1.20 £1.50. DF: £3.90. CSF: £15.93. Tricast: £42.46. After a stewards' inquiry the result stood.
Placepot: £29.90

● Steve Cauthen and Pat Eddery renew rivalry in a series of four invitational races at Hanshin racecourse, Osaka, in Japan this weekend. Yves Saint-Martin and Cash Asmussen represent France with Pat Day and Laffit Pincay flying the flag for the United States.

SANDOWN PARK

Selections

By Mandarin

12.55 Hypnosis.
1.25 Alto Cumulus.
2.00 Celtic Shot.
2.30 Desert Orchid.
3.00 Against The Grain.
3.30 SWINGIT GUNNER (nap).

By Michael Seely
2.00 Celtic Shot. 3.30 SWINGIT GUNNER (nap)
The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.00 GHOFAR.

Guide to our in-line racecard

103 8-0432 TIMESFORM 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .... B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Six-figure form (F-fell. P-pulled up. U-unseated rider. B-brought down. S-slipped up. R-refused). Horse's name. Days since last outing. (B-blinkers. V-visor. H-hood. E-Eyeshield. C-course winner. D-distance winner. CD-course and distance winner. BF-beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F-firm, good to firm, hard. G-good. S-soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

Going: good

12.55 HENRY VIII NOVICES CHASE (£4,440: 2m 18yd) (8 runners) C 4

102	32210-1	BALLYHANE 35 (C,G,S) (H J Joel) J Gifford 5-11-2	R Rowe	92
103	4010-11	*HYPNOSIS 30 (F,G,S) (Mai G Snell) D Elsworth 8-11-2*	C Brown	● 99
104	3/0P4-34	AMRULLAH 15 (T Thom) J Bridger 7-10-12	G Moore	91
106	3013/00	FAROLITO 30 (F) (L Bowman) L Bowman 8-10-12	E McKinley	—
107	141203-	KESCAST 241 (F,G,S) (J Mason) M Pipe 7-10-12	P Scudamore	—
108	003240	LE GRAND MAITRE 9 (Le Maitre & Co Ltd) G Roe 6-10-12	P McDermott	85
109	30P-030	PRUDENT MATCH 45 (J Stafford) H O'Neill 8-10-12	B Wright	84
110	0-FP002	SASSANOCO 15 (F,G) (C Andrews) K Bailey 5-10-12	P Croucher	76

BETTING: 4-5 Hypnosis, 2-1 Ballyhane, 5-1 Kescast, 20-1 Sassanoco, 25-1 Amrullah, 33-1 Prudent Match, Le Grand Maitre, 100-1 Farolito.

1986: MIDNIGHT COUNT 6-10-12 R Rowe (3-1) J Gifford 9 ran

FORM BALLYHANE (11-1) won onchasing debut here by 4l from Bigsun (11-1) (2m 4f 68yd, £2306, good to soft, Oct 31, 6 ran).
HYPNOSIS (11-2) head Kempton winner from Prideaux Boy (11-8) (2m, £2361, good, Nov 5, 9 ran) with AMRULLAH (11-2) distance 3rd and FAROLITO (11-2) also well behind.
KESCAST was a useful handicap hurdler last year: 1l 2nd (10-6) to Inlander (10-3) here (2m, £11756, good, Mar 14, 23 ran) with AMRULLAH (10-1) tailed off.
PRUDENT MATCH 5th to Jim Thorpe at Cheltenham last time: previously (11-1) 15l 3rd to odds-on Prideaux Boy (11-1) at Wincanton (2m, £1202, good, Oct 15, 10 ran).
SASSANOCO (11-3) 3l 2nd to Springholm (11-10) – winner again since – at Nottingham (2m, £1847, good to soft, Nov 20, 11 ran).
Selection: HYPNOSIS

1.25 MECCA BOOKMAKERS NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£6,700: 2m) (15 runners) C 4

201	133	LASHKAFDAL 7 (D,S) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 4-11-11	—	89
202	3-00211	MAUSOLEE 12 (G,S) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 4-10-13 (4ex)	B Wright	95
203	1P	TRUST THE IRISH 21 (D,BF,S) (A Gardiner-Hill) H O'Neill 6-10-9	R Dunwoody	97
204	004-01	WOLFHANGAR 9 (D,G) (Mrs B Samuel) F Winter 5-10-8 (4ex)	P Scudamore	90
206	00/10F0	GANARO 14 (F) (F Harvey) G Balding 5-10-4	R Guest	87
207	12F-242	AUTUMN SPORT 9 (BF,F,G) (C Jenkins) J Edwards 5-10-4	T Morgan	96
208	02211	FISH QUAY 28 (D,F,S) (S Childs) M H Easterby 4-10-3	M Hammond	94
209	000-22	OWL CASTLE 17 (W Harrison-Allan) P Hayward 4-10-3	—	● 99
210	F14F00	IDLE MATINEE 21 (F) (T Page) R O'Sullivan 6-10-0	M Kinane	93
211	0F0-	HAMPER 226 (H J Joel) J Gifford 4-10-0	R Rowe	85
212	3403-F4	ALTO CUMULUS 21 (BF) (Mrs A Parkinson) N Gaselee 5-10-0	K Mooney	91
213	4P00/33	IRON BILLY 12 (B Pearl) D Elsworth 8-10-0	C Brown	86
215	00/00-14	XYLOPHONE 28 (D,F) (L Shepherd) D Marks 5-10-0	Miss K Marks	80
216	04-323	MONUMENTAL LAD 12 (T Parrott) Mrs H Parrott 4-10-0	C Jones	98
219	4U0-2	MILTON BURN 9 (A Richards) H O'Neill 6-10-0	S Smith Eccles	85

BETTING: 9-2 Fish Quay, 5-1 Mausolee, 6-1 Autumn Sport, 7-1 Owl Castle, 8-1 Wolfhangar, 10-1 Trust *The Irish,* 12-1 Alto Cumulus, Lashkafdal, 14-1 Ganaro, 16-1 others.

1986: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM TRUST THE IRISH pulled up lame when prominent last time out (11-7) in race in which IDLE MATINEE (11-7) finished well-beaten 5th; earlier (10-12) 6l winner from MAUSOLEE (10-12) at Stratford (2m, £939, good to soft, Nov 5, 17 ran).
MAUSOLEE scored by 12l at Windsor (10-10) with ALTO CUMULUS (10-10) further 5l away 4th: followed up there (11-3) from Roscoe Harvey (10-10) with MONUMENTAL LAD (10-10) 2½l 3rd (2m 30yd, £843, good to soft, Nov 23, 20 ran).
WOLFHANGAR (10-8) 1½l Wincanton winner from Llanarmon (10-8) (2m, £1021, good, Nov 26, 20 ran).
AUTUMN SPORT close 2nd to Alaska Run at Haydock last time (2m, soft); previously ½l 2nd (11-1) to Tebato (11-4) at Cheltenham on reappearance (2m, £1688, good to soft, Oct 21, 18 ran).
FISH QUAY (11-7) 3l winner from Lingham Bride (10-9) at Catterick (2m, £685, good to firm, Nov 7, 19 ran). Progressive.
OWL CASTLE (11-0) creditable 5l 2nd to Sir Blake (11-0) at Kempton (2m, £2486, good to soft, Nov 18, 20 ran).
Selection: OWL CASTLE

2.0 MECCA BOOKMAKERS HANDICAP HURDLE (Listed race: £19,300: 2m) (12 runners) C 4

301	43210-3	STEPASIDE LORD 12 (D,F,G,S) (P Green) D Nicholson 5-11-10	R Dunwoody	90
302	0110-02	BEAT THE RETREAT 14 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (A Forster) J Jenkins 6-11-8	S Smith Eccles	80
304	2120-22	*BALLYDURROW 21 (D,F,G,S) (S Marsh) R Fisher 10-11-4*	N Doughty	87
305	11003-2	SPROWSTON BOY 15 (CD,G,S) (G Whiting) P Kelleway 4-11-4	R Rowe	80
307	0340-04	CHRYSAOR 49 (B,CD,G,S) (P Fahey) S Christian 8-11-1	A Mulholland (7)	89
309	342-0F4	SANTOPADRE 7 (D,G,S) (T Ramsden) R Simpson 5-10-13	B Wright	88
310	F1120-1	STRING PLAYER 26 (D,G,S) (F Lee) F Lee 5-10-10	C Hawkins	85
312	4FF2-11	CELTIC SHOT 21 (CD,S) (D Horton) F Winter 5-10-6 (4ex)	P Scudamore	90
313	3332-04	COOL STRIKE 12 (D,S) (T Knowles) G Moore 6-10-0	M Hammond	87
314	1001-44	CASHEW KING 21 (D,F,S) (P Moss) B McMahon 4-10-0	T Wall	84
315	1300-33	*GHOFAR 7 (CD,G) (H Dundas) D Elsworth 4-10-0*	C Brown	● 98
316	0212-23	DETROIT SAM 65 (D,BF,F) (Miss A Whitfield) M Francis 6-10-0	P Croucher	67

BETTING: 7-4 Celtic Shot, 8-1 Beat The Retreat, 10-1 Ballydurrow, Ghofar, 12-1 Chrysaor, Sprowston Boy, 14-1 Santopadre, Stepaside Lord, 16-1 Cashew King, String Player, 20-1 Cool Strike, 50-1 Detroit Sam.

1986: AONOCH 7-11-7 Jacqui Oliver (16-1) Mrs S Oliver 17 ran

FORM STEPASIDE LORD 8¾l 5th to See You Then in last season's Champion Hurdle; on Leicester reappearance (2m, £2519, heavy, Nov 23, 6 ran) (12-0) 10l 3rd to Nos Na Gaoithe (10-10) with COOL STRIKE (11-0) a head 4th.
BEAT THE RETREAT, three times a course and distance winner, (11-11) 4l 2nd to Jimmy Lorenzo (10-7) at Ascot last time (2m, £6316, good to soft, Nov 21, 6 ran)
BALLYDURROW (10-13) 3l 2nd to Aonoch (12-0) in this race last year (2m, £12015, good to soft, Nov 29, 17 ran) with CHRYSAOR (10-10), the previous year's winner, neck 3rd; 8l 2nd to Floyd in competitive Newcastle contest (2m 60yd, £10458, good to soft, Nov 14, 7 ran).
STRING PLAYER (11-5), a five-time winner last season, beat Gaye Brief (11-10) 2½l on Wolverhampton seasonal debut (2m 6f 110yd, £2603, good, Nov 9, 4 ran).
CELTIC SHOT (10-6) impressive 10l winner from Nos Na Gaoithe (11-7) at Cheltenham (2m, £7791, soft, Nov 14, 9 ran) with CASHEW KING (10-6) 2½l 4th.
COOL STRIKE (10-0) 4l 2nd to Nebiin (11-7) in last season's County Hurdle at Cheltenham (2m, £12809, good, Mar 19, 24 ran) with SANTOPADRE (10-0) head 3rd and STRING PLAYER (10-9) behind.
GHOFAR (11-3) improved when 4l 3rd to CELTIC CHIEF (11-0) at Newbury last time (2m 100yd, £8740, good, Nov 28, 9 ran) with SANTOPADRE (11-0) another 15l 4th.
Selection: GHOFAR

2.30 TINGLE CREEK CHASE (Listed race: limited handicap: £8,796: 2m 18yd) (5 runners) C 4

401	131P-11	DESERT ORCHID 17 (CD,F,G,S) (R Burridge) D Elsworth 8-12-0	C Brown	● 99
403	F/34411-	SOMERLED 288 (CD,F,G,S) (R McDonald) R McDonald 8-10-6	C Hawkins	90
404	1320-13	AMBER RAMBLER 15 (BF,F,G,S) (D Silverton) H Wharton 8-10-0	B Walsh (4)	93
405	1P-40P2	FAR BRIDGE 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Duke of Atholl) G Balding 11-10-0	S Smith Eccles	87
407	33-4131	LONG ENGAGEMENT 14 (CD,G,S) (B Gregory) D Nicholson 6-10-0 (5ex)	R Dunwoody	97

BETTING: 4-7 Desert Orchid, 7-2 Amber Rambler, 9-2 Long Engagement, 8-1 Somerled, 12-1 Far Bridge.

1986: BERLIN 7-11-2 D Browne (11-8 fav) N Gaselee 7 ran

FORM DESERT ORCHID (11-10) had little more than an exercise gallop when beating Bishops Yarn (10-10) 12l at Kempton (2m 4f, £7502, good to soft, Nov 18, 3 ran): on penultimate outing last season (12-4) beat Gold Bearer (10-0) 2l at Ascot (2m 4f, £7142, good to soft, Apr 8, 7 ran).
SOMERLED (11-9) ended last season with a 10l defeat of Kilbrittain Castle (10-10) over this course and distance (£3785, good to soft, Feb 20, 5 ran).
AMBER RAMBLER (12-1) one-paced 4½l 3rd to Warner For Leisure (10-10) at Ascot (2m, £7142, good to soft, Nov 20, 10 ran).
LONG ENGAGEMENT (10-2) beat FAR BRIDGE (10-0) 8l at Ascot (2m, £6870, good to soft, Nov 21, 6 ran).
Selection: DESERT ORCHID

3.0 EWELL CHASE (Limited handicap: £4,308: 3m 118yd) (4 runners)

502	B241-23	AGAINST THE GRAIN 14 (G,S) (J Mawle) D Nicholson 6-11-10	R Dunwoody	88
504	111-214	YAHOO 14 (F,S) (A Parker) J Edwards 6-11-3	T Morgan	94
505	B211-22	FOYLE FISHERMAN 14 (G,S) (J Hutchinson) J Gifford 8-11-1	R Rowe	● 99
508	P22-0F1	DEEP AND EVEN 5 (B,F,S) (C Brooks) F Winter 7-10-0	NON-RUNNER	—

BETTING: 5-4 Foyle Fisherman, 7-4 Yahoo, 5-2 Against The Grain.

1986: KING JO 6-10-7 R Dunwoody (3-1) Mrs M Rimell 5 ran

3.30 DOUG BARROTT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,553: 2m 5f 75yd) (13 runners)

603	1P/031-0	HOORAH HENRY 17 (CD,G,S) (N Payne) J Sayers 7-11-10	C Brown	91
604	0131P/1	SWINGIT GUNNER 14 (F,S) (Mrs G Barnes) C Tinkler 6-11-8 (6ex)	N Doughty	● 99
605	101-413	TENZING 35 (BF,F,G,S) (R E A Bott Ltd) O Sherwood 7-11-7	R Boucher (7)	88
606	3021-0	COCKPIT CREW 16 (S) (R Simmons) O Sherwood 6-10-9	S Sherwood	80
609	04P-114	*DAVY'S WEIR 35 (F,G) (Mrs R Lacy) J Gifford 7-10-3*	R Rowe	83
610	100P-00	GALLANT BUCK 8 (B,S) (J Scott) D Elsworth 7-10-3	P Scudamore	98
611	2F01-00	DREAM MERCHANT 16 (F,S) (L Foxwell) R O'Sullivan 5-10-2	M Kinane	86
612	111-033	GRUNDY'S PET 2 (G,S) (J Carr) G Moore 5-10-2	NON-RUNNER	—
613	410P-23	FIRST ROMANCE 24 (G) (Queen Mother) F Walwyn 5-10-1	R Chapman	94
614	410010-	LOCKNER LAD 287 (S) (D Heath) R Parker 7-10-1	M Furlong	92
619	03P-0F2	HILL-STREET-BLUES 11 (F,S) (L Marsh) J Fox 9-10-0	R Dunwoody	90
620	00403-0	COURAGEOUS CHARGER 38 (F) (R Hamilton) G Enright 5-10-0	T Platfield (7)	86
622	1-430P0	RHODE ISLAND RED 4 (F,S) (J Bruton) A Moore 4-10-0	Candy Moore (4)	83

BETTING: 11-10 Swingit Gunner, 6-1 Hoorah Henry, 7-1 First Romance, 8-1 Tenzing, 10-1 Gallant Buck, Cockpit Crew, 12-1 Davy's Weir, 16-1 others.

1986: RED ROCKY 6-10-0 B de Haan (8-1) Mrs J Pitman 18 ran

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
N Gaselee	9	30	30.0	S Smith Eccles	24	89	27.0
F Walwyn	19	95	20.0	R Rowe	24	130	18.5
D Elsworth	14	84	16.7	C Brown	13	77	16.9
F Winter	20	130	15.4	P Scudamore	23	137	16.8
G Balding	10	66	15.2	R Dunwoody	10	69	14.5
J Gifford	24	201	11.9	Only qualifiers			

CHEPSTOW

Selections

By Mandarin

12.30 Ryde Again.
1.00 Fu's Lady.
1.30 Andrea Dawn.
2.05 Western Sunset.
2.35 Thats Nice.
3.05 Doubleton.
3.35 Grenagh.

Going: soft

12.30 CORINTHIAN SUPREME NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£2,815: 2m) (10 runners)

1	1	CELTIC TRUST 29 (S) (R Murray) Mrs M Rimell 4-11-4	M Muggeridge (7)	—
3	1	RYMSTER 35 (D,S) (T Ramsden) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-4	D Byrne (7)	—
4	31-	YOU TURN OKAY 194 (F) (J Canney) E Wheeler 6-11-4	W Irvine (7)	—
5	10	*ZUMMERSET 9 (D,BF,G) (D Coombs) D Barons 5-11-4*	Mr B Towers	—
8	42-	IRISH GENERAL 226 (A Parker) J Edwards 5-11-0	Miss V Williams	—
9	3	PIPERS COPSE 31 (Mrs J Locke) P Cundell 5-11-0	F Whittle (7)	—
10	2-	RYDE AGAIN 31 (Mrs K Hayward) P Cundell 4-11-0	C Hayward (7)	—
11	2-4	ASSUMPTION 50 (Mrs C Davies) R Brazington 4-10-9	C Llewellyn (4)	—
12	0-4	SINGLE WOMAN 31 (G Philips) A J Wilson 4-10-9	S Cowley	—
13	02-	VI'S DELIGHT 199 (R Giles) J Spearing 5-10-9	Miss T Spearing (7)	—

BETTING: 9-4 Ryde Again, 7-2 Rymster, 9-2 Celtic Trust, 8-1 You Turn Okay, 10-1 Irish General, *Zummerset,* 14-1 Pipers Copse, Vi's Delight, 16-1 Single Woman, 20-1 Assumption.

1986: RANDOLPH PLACE 5-10-11 J R Quinn (5-6 fav) G Richards 10 ran

1.0 PRINCE OF WALES NOVICES CHASE (£1,970: 2m) (11 runners) BBC 1

1	10-FU01	UP COOKE 28 (CD,F,S) (E Quilligotti) M Pipe 6-11-8	—	93
2	0000-21	FU'S LADY 12 (S) (S Dunster) P Hobbs 5-11-4	A Carroll	● 99
4	P00P/0F	DUSKY'S SPIRIT 10 (Mrs A Appleyard) Mrs A Appleyard 6-11-0	P Richards	—
5	1PP/F0	HANDYMOUSE 21 (S) (J Jewell) P Hobbs 7-11-0	Peter Hobbs	—
7	P00-	NEARLY MEDINA 281 (Mrs S Perry) R Hodges 5-11-0	W Irvine (7)	—
9	34030-0	ONLY TROUBLE 16 (T Houlbrooke) T Houlbrooke 6-11-0	H Davies	89
10	3064-00	PRECIPICE MOSS 21 (G) (Mrs J Landless) Mrs I McKie 7-11-0	C Mann	—
11	00P/PP0	ROYS DILEMMA 19 (W Sheedy) W Sheedy 5-11-0	D J Burchell (7)	—
13	090/F-	THAMES AIR 387 (Mrs P Fairbairn) Mrs S Richardson 7-11-0	P Warner	—
14	F42F03	TOP GOLD 12 (F,S) (W Hepper) R Hodges 6-11-0	B Powell	87
15	33-400F	*VIPSANIA 28 (S) (Mrs J Meade) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-0*	D Browne	—

BETTING: 2-1 Fu's Lady, 5-2 Up Cooke, 6-1 Only Trouble, 7-1 Top Gold, 9-1 Precipice Moss, Vipsania, 20-1 others.

1986: ABANDONED – FOG

FORM UP COOKE (10-8) beat Vulrory's Clown (10-13) ¾l here (2m, £1778, good to soft, Nov 7, 15 ran) with DUSKY'S SPIRIT (10-8) well-beaten 8th, HANDYMOUSE (10-8) a beaten 4th when falling two out and ROYS DILEMMA (10-8) pulled up.
FU'S LADY (10-10), left clear two out, 12l winner from Bara Peg (10-10) at Windsor (2m 40yd, £1644, good to soft, Nov 23, 16 ran) with TOP GOLD (10-10) another 3l 3rd.
ONLY TROUBLE (11-10) never dangerous 14½l 5th to Cats Eyes (11-7) at Taunton (2m 150yd, £1844, soft, Nov 19, 10 ran).
Selection: UP COOKE

1.30 SOUTH WALES SHOWERS GROHE HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,516: 3m) (16 runners) BBC 1

1	1-2F114	MISS NERO 21 (D,BF,F,S) (R Yates) R Lee 6-11-10	B Dowling	95
3	011/204-	MOTIVATOR 357 (D,G) (T Ramsden) Mrs J Pitman 7-11-4	M Pitman	97
4	F111-04	ANDREA DAWN 15 (B,F,G) (D Milburn) A Turnell 6-11-3	Steve Knight	86
5	1/04200-	STERNE 295 (S) (Mrs W Tulloch) S Mellor 5-10-9	Alison Begley (7)	97
7	10103-0	LORD MURPHY 19 (S) (B Davies) R Holder 5-10-2	N Coleman	98
9	1302-40	ELLFERANDEM 15 (B,S) (Mrs E Merridew) S Mellor 7-10-1	G Landau	97
11	001001-	ROYAL HERO 231 (S) (Mrs F Bowden) P Bowden 6-10-0	G Morgan (7)	98
12	01402-0	EN GOUNASI THEON 15 (S) (Mrs M Snow) G Dodge 6-10-0	P Holley (7)	93
13	0-41000	BRONZE EFFIGY 22 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Henriques) M Henriques 5-10-0	B Dowling	94
14	130-00P	CRISP 24 (B,F,G,S) (J Bodie) C Reed 6-10-0	—	● 99
15	22123-F	RIG STEEL 31 (F,G,S) (R Robbins) P Cundell 7-10-0	R Stronge	—
16	41P0-00	MR REX 11 (B,G) (R Johnson) Mrs J Pitman 5-10-0	C Mann	94
17	000-04B	CONA GLEN 22 (S) (Lady McGowan) T Forster 6-10-0	C Llewellyn (4)	90
18	P0PP-00	CELTIC FLEET 11 (B,CD,S) (R Beswick) J Spearing 6-10-0	P Warner	—
20	20P-303	THE SHINER 11 (B) (M Mellersh) M Tate 7-10-0	R Hyett	87
23	PP080/P-	SYMPATIQUE 290 (S) (R Graham) Miss E Sneyd 9-10-0	B Powell	—

BETTING: 4-1 Motivator, 5-1 Royal Hero, 13-2 Andrea Dawn, 8-1 Bronze Effigy, Miss Nero, *10-1 Ellferandem, The Shiner,* 12-1 Cona Glen, Sterne, 14-1 others.

1986: MODEL PUPIL 6-10-7 S J O'Neill (13-2) O O'Neill 14 ran

FORM MISS NERO (11-10) 18l 4th to Emo Forever (11-8) at Cheltenham (3m 1f, soft) last time; previously (11-8) stayed on strongly to beat Merry Jane (12-0) 4l at Cheltenham (3m 1f, £2826, good to soft, Oct 21, 19 ran) with BRONZE EFFIGY (10-6) another 13l 6th.
MOTIVATOR (11-10) 2½l 2nd to Kildimo (11-7) at Ascot (3m hdle, £3038, good to firm, Nov 1986, 5 ran) with CRISP (10-7) another 19l 5th.
ANDREA DAWN (11-6) 15½l 4th to well-handicapped Take No Trash (10-2) at Ascot (3m, £3345, good to soft, Nov 20, 13 ran) with ELLFERANDEM (10-3) 6½l 6th and *EN GOUNASI THEON* (10-5) well behind.
STERNE (11-3) 1l 2nd to Harry's Bar (10-12) at Newbury (2m 4f 120yd, £3132, good to soft, Jan 3, 7 ran).
LORD MURPHY (11-0) last showed best form when 9l 3rd to Jimmy Lorenzo (11-2) at Devon (2m 1f, £2803, soft, Apr 14, 18 ran).
THE SHINER (10-11) 1¾l 3rd to Voyant (11-10) at Wolverhampton (2m 6f 110yd, £1568, heavy, Nov 24, 20 ran) with MR REX (11-2) another 30l 5th and CELTIC FLEET (11-5) tailed off.
Selection: STERNE

2.5 JOHN MOWLEM HOMES REHEARSAL CHASE (Listed race: £4,222: 3m) (3 runners) BBC 1

2	FF23-13	CYBRANDIAN 10 (CD,F,G,S) (I Bray) M H Easterby 9-11-8	D Browne	● 99
3	1122-34	WESTERN SUNSET 21 (D,S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 11-11-4	H Davies	93
4	111-102	RISK A BET 2 (F,G,S) (Mrs A Sheppard) Mrs I McKie 8-11-0	NON-RUNNER	79

BETTING: 4-6 Cybrandian, 5-4 Western Sunset.

1986: CYBRANDIAN 8-11-0 P Scudamore (11-10 fav) M H Easterby 3 ran

FORM CYBRANDIAN (11-7) well below best when 40l last of 3 to Beau Ranger (10-12) at Haydock (3m, soft) last time; (12-0) 1½l 2nd to The Thinker (12-0) in Cheltenham Gold Cup (3m 2f, £55500, good to soft, Mar 19, 12 ran).
WESTERN SUNSET (11-1) soon struggling but stayed on to finish 22½l 4th to Beau Ranger (10-2) at Cheltenham (2m 4f, £14512, soft, Nov 14, 14 ran); (11-10) 1l 2nd to Memberson (10-0) at Sandown (3m 118yd, £5371, good to soft, Mar 31, 6 ran).
Selection: CYBRANDIAN

2.35 ROMAN SELLING HURDLE (4-Y-O: £683: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

3	4-0P	FLEUR DE THISTLE 5 (Mrs G Davison) A Davison 11-0	S Murphy (7)	82
4	341-0U0	ICARO 28 (B,F) (J Harriman) J Harriman 11-0	D J Burchell (7)	● 99
6	042000	MARSHAL BLAKE 18 (B) (M Worthington) Miss S Wilton 11-0	S Davies (7)	81
7	FF-	SPRING WIGEON 260 (K Bell) D Wintle 11-0	A Carroll	—
8	014090	THATS NICE 4 (B,F) (D Short) T Keenor 11-0	M Richards	83
9	P033	ANNABEN 9 (M Williams) W G M Turner 10-9	D Morris (4)	90
10	00	*COVER INN 10 (B Vincent) C Holmes 10-9*	K Burke (4)	—
11	034P-00	DELTA ROSE 9 (Mrs D Davies) M W Davies 10-9	W Knox	81
12	2400	INGER-LEA 10 (Mrs D Watts) R Curtis 10-9	R Goldstein	85
14	P00-P00	SEASKILL 28 (Mrs A Holly) D Holly 10-9	R Dennis	82
15	4	THORNCOMBE 65 (B Forsey) B Forsey 10-9	C Llewellyn (4)	—

BETTING: 5-2 Thats Nice, 7-2 Icaro, 9-2 Annaben, 6-1 Delta Rose, 8-1 Marshal Blake, 10-1 Inger-Lea, 12-1 Fleur de Thistle, 14-1 others.

1986: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.5 HORIZON HANDICAP CHASE (£2,247: 2m) (3 runners)

1	11F/041-	JOHNS PRESENT 362 (CD,S) (P Dening) R Holder 9-11-10	P Richards	95
3	11100-1	HIZ 25 (D,S) (Mrs G McFerran) T Forster 9-11-7	H Davies	● 99
5	2F311-2	DOUBLETON 9 (B,D,F,G,S) (A Ford) C Popham 6-11-3	B Powell	97

BETTING: 11-8 Doubleton, 6-4 Hiz, 5-2 Johns Present.

1986: ABANDONED – FOG

3.35 EBF NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £3,137: 2m) (25 runners)

2	0-	ALTRAFAN 266 (Mrs J Locke) P Cundell 4-11-0	—	—
4		ARTFUL CON (A Holmes) R Manning 5-11-0	N Coleman	—
6	0-00	BALLESTEROS 16 (D Ward-Smith) P Bowden 6-11-0	G Morgan	84
7	0	BEDLAM 44 (G Parker) O Sherwood 4-11-0	M Richards	80
8	0-	BILBIE 267 (H Collins) Mrs M Rimell 6-11-0	A Sharpe	—
10		BLACKDOWN MIST (P Ferrari) B Venn 4-11-0	G Landau	—
14	3-	*CHIEF BUCKANEER 380 (W Whitbread) Mrs M Rimell 5-11-0*	D Browne	92
15		CRAFTY STYLE (Mrs J Pedherer) J Edwards 4-11-0	Mr L Robinson	—
17	F0-PP24	DUNARUNNA 16 (P Purdy) B Forsey 6-11-0	C Llewellyn (4)	89
20		FOUR FROM THE EDGE (A Armitage) D Nicholson 4-11-0	K Huild	—
21	00-0	GAMBLING ROYAL 60 (C Roach) C Roach 4-11-0	R Millman	—
24		GLITSEY PUSS (Winterbourne Construction Ltd) A Turnell 4-11-0	Steve Knight	—
25	000233-	GOLDEN ACRE 194 (R Hewitt) M Pipe 5-11-0	J Lower	95
26	0-2	GRENAGH 25 (Mrs D Joyce) V Bishop 6-11-0	H Davies	● 99
27	000-0	HANDSAWN 16 (Mrs H Bare) M McCourt 5-11-0	S Cowley	—
29	0P-	KING'S KESTREL 365 (R Kerslake) M Pipe 5-11-0	—	—
34	2-0	PEMBROKE BAY 15 (Mrs E Hitchins) Mrs J Pitman 4-11-0	M Pitman	—
43		SHERINGHAM HOUSE (S O'Shea) D Murray-Smith 4-11-0	—	85
44	04-4	SMARTIE EXPRESS 9 (S Norman) R Hodges 4-11-0	B Powell	—
46	0	THE EARL ENRICO 9 (A Taylor) A Taylor 5-11-0	Mr A Taylor	—
48		TRAVISTOWN (Mrs M Llewellyn) B Palling 5-11-0	C Evans	—
50	0	WAR DANCER 199 (F Hayes) D Murray-Smith 5-11-0	—	—
51	-2	WATERLOO BOY 9 (M Deeley) D Nicholson 4-11-0	J Frost	—
52	0	*WATERSMEET DOWN 21 (D Croxton) P Hobbs 4-11-0*	Peter Hobbs	—
61	0	PUB'N'CLUB 9 (B Allen) M Eckley 4-10-9	—	—

BETTING: 11-4 Grenagh, 7-2 Golden Acre, 5-1 Chief Buckaneer, 15-2 Smartie Express, 8-1 Dunarunna, 10-1 Glitsey Puss, Waterloo Boy, 12-1 others.

1986: ABANDONED – FOG

Course specialists

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
T Forster	14	66	21.2	H Davies	16	103	15.5
Mrs M Rimell	13	66	19.7				
D Barons	10	53	18.9				
M Pipe	11	69	15.9				
D Nicholson	10	73	13.7				
S Mellor	6	45	13.3	Only qualifier			

In-form Grant lands Bangor treble

Chris Grant, a rare visitor to Bangor-on-Dee, was unbeatable there yesterday, completing a treble from his three rides – Pacifiste, Arctic Call and King Of The *Lot. The tough Northern jockey is now* on 29 winners, and fighting for second place in the jockeys' table.

Grant partnered King Of The Lot to victory in the Erostin Group Novices' Hurdle, earning a tribute from trainer Richard Lee, who said: "I had never met Chris Grant before today. I thought for him to give the horse a ride like that the first time he sat on it was great."

***The jockey* was also praised by Mrs Monica Dickinson, who saddled Pacifiste and Arctic Call. "You can always rely on Chris to give a horse a good ride. Although he's ridden us winners before that's his first double for the stable."**

Classical Charm to take charge

The Illiad, who landed a mammoth gamble for Homer Scott in last year's Holsten Handicap Hurdle, attempts to complete the double at Fairyhouse this afternoon, but with a new jockey (Our Irish Racing Correspondent writes).

John Shortt, who partnered him 12 months ago, has been replaced by Brendan Sheridan. The Illiad has not so far been performing with the zest he showed last season and it remains to be seen whether a change of jockey brings a revival.

Top weight will be carried by Deep Idol having his first race since taking fourth place behind See You Then in the Champion Hurdle. However, the improving four-year-old Classical Charm is preferred.

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TT1

The Times charts the spread of what Continentals call the English disease: the offside tactic in football

A nation caught in a virulent trap

English football is being caught in its own ever-widening offside trap. The defensive ploy has recently become so prevalent that at least three first division managers are proposing that the rules should be changed to release the only League in the world that imprisons itself in negative frustration.

The deliberate use of offside is choking football. **Stuart Jones**, Football Correspondent, analyses the growth of the tactic in the first division and looks at the teams which use it.

The League's technical committee were so concerned about the number of traps being set that referees were instructed at the beginning of the season to interpret the rule more literally: in other words, disregard potential offenders unless they are indisputably "interfering with play."

Yet the initial evidence at White Hart Lane last Saturday suggested that Tottenham Hotspur will, under Terry Venables, join the growing list of teams that are designed to spoil the ideas of their opponents as much as create their own. The prospect is anything but attractive.

In a survey conducted by *The Times*, only 13 of the 21 first division clubs openly admit that they employ the offside tactic. Yet confirmation of its popularity on the pitch, as well as its unpopularity on the terraces, is likely to be spread throughout this afternoon's programme.

This regrettable growth can, and must, be halted. Alan Ball, Bobby Gould and Chris Nicholl all believe in a similar solution; the respective managers of Portsmouth, Wimbledon and Southampton suggest that the relevant rule should be rewritten and, if necessary, the lines of the penalty area redrawn.

Nicholl would prefer to "do away with the law altogether. We had a simple game that has been complicated. It causes more anger, more frustration, more problems for officials and more resentment among spectators than anything else. It is a trend that some teams are carrying to excess.

"The system acts like an extra defender. It breaks my heart to tell a naturally instinctive player like Danny Wallace to run away from the opposition's goal. The way we are going, we will end up with 11 Daley Thompsons who can run fast, jump high and hit the ball hard."

Ball is equally perturbed. "It has been exploited to the limit and drives people mad", he said. "It is gamesmanship and they are doing it throughout the four divisions and especially lower down." He would welcome the 30-yard rule, whereby a player cannot be offside up to 30 yards from the opposition's goalline, as introduced in the United States.

Although FIFA agreed to conduct an experiment in the Vauxhall Conference League this season, the governing body is hardly likely to alter the game for the sake of one nation. Nor should it be altered, according to Ron Greenwood, who is respected across the globe for his knowledge and observation.

"Some Continental sides use offside occasionally", he says, "but we are the only country that uses it regularly as a general tactic. It is destructive football, a way of cutting down the risks of being exposed and it is driving people away. In essence, it is an admission of inefficiency.

"We didn't see anybody playing it in the World Cup in Mexico, did we? Everybody was allowed to play there and it was a glorious spectacle. English football is not a spectacle. It is concerned with winning and especially with the fear of losing. That is why space is so restricted."

The offside game is easy to implement. Within half an hour four men could be trained to act as a competent unit and advance as the opposition is about to release the ball. It is difficult to break down if the combatants have neither patience nor precision

If two teams are indulging in it, the playing area can in effect be reduced by two-thirds. More than a few of this afternoon's fixtures will be staged largely within a central strip of some 30 yards. "Anybody who expresses himself in midfield these days is a genius", Greenwood adds.

"The Brazilians started the offside with their central defenders covering each other in a 4-2-4 formation. The Dutch took it up but used it as an attacking ploy. They attacked the ball as they advanced. In basketball it is called pressing. Liverpool succeeded with it here as well.

> **The way we are going, we will end up with 11 Daley Thompsons who can run fast, jump high and hit the ball hard.**
>
> Chris Nicholl

"To beat the system you need an intelligent team that can play revolving or total football, as it is known. In simple terms, the backs go forwards and the forwards go backwards. Then your own defenders can exploit the room behind theirs. But you have to have the right ingredients."

He recalls watching a World Youth Cup tie between Uruguay and Honduras a decade ago. One of the Honduras youngsters, inside the centre circle with the ball at his feet, looked up and was startled to see a stampede heading towards him. But the Uruguayans ran not to him but past him.

"That was the ultimate in stupidity but, whenever anybody does anything inventive in football, they are copied. People started to imitate the long-ball style of Watford, Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon, for instance, and particularly down in the lower divisions.

"Teams like Arsenal and Tottenham are now capitalizing on the deficiences of opponents who can't counter the offside tactic. They are getting away with it because there is too much fear and not enough players who are bright on the ball.

"It is not the rules that need changing (we are alone in the world in wanting to do so) but the attitude. Negative thoughts are easy, positive ones are not. If only somebody would win the first division championship playing with a sweeper, it would do the game in this country a world of good."

FIRST DIVISION'S VERDICT ON THE USE OF OFFSIDE

Arsenal
Although Theo Foley, the Arsenal assistant manager, emphasizes that offside is not the club's prime defensive weapon, he admits it is part of their strategy.

Charlton Athletic
Charlton do not make regular use of the offside rule but Lennie Lawrence, their manager, said : "I wouldn't want to tamper with it, though a 30-yard line might make for a better spectacle."

Chelsea
John Hollins, Chelsea's manager, lays down no ground rules in the application of offside "because it can be so inconsistent". He added: "You can't rely on someone doing what you want them to do. It's a dangerous game to play."

Coventry City
Coventry's manager, John Sillett, shies away from offside or any defence-oriented strategy. He believes Coventry's strength is in an attacking policy.

Derby County
Arthur Cox, Derby's manager, does not favour the regular use of offside. Cox said: "We simply expect our defenders to be sharp and alert enough to catch out any opposition forwards who are slow and lazy. That's what offside is for."

Everton
Howard Kendall, Everton's former manager, introduced a system he refused to concede was centred around the offside trap but which, effectively, was. The pace of the back four often leads to accusations that Everton's defensive prowess is built around offside. Colin Harvey, the present manager, would argue, with some justification, that opposition forwards are caught offside by the speed with which his own players can transform defence into attack.

West Ham United
West Ham have a consistent policy of using offside whenever necessary.

Luton Town
Ray Harford, Luton's manager, insists offside is outside his planning. He has, however, a well drilled, stable defence which uses offside selectively but successfully.

Manchester United
Manchester United have used offside intermittently over the past 15 years but the present back four are more reliant on strength than pace. Alex Ferguson, their manager, is more inclined to use a sweeper system.

Newcastle United
Newcastle, renowned for their attacking emphasis, have resisted temptation to employ offside even when their defence has proved vulnerable against faster forwards. They rely heavily on the aerial prowess of their centre backs and midfield players undertaking defensive duties.

Norwich City
Norwich use offside as an occasional rather than a regular defensive tactic. The club's caretaker-manager, David Stringer, feels it could be dangerous to play square against sharper forwards. "We like to think we can catch opponents out sometimes rather than go out with it as a set regular way of defending," he said.

Nottingham Forest
Nottingham Forest are not averse to pressing the offside game into service when the occasion demands but they usually favour an open game.

Oxford United
Oxford regard offside as an important part of defensive strategy but not to the extent of a back line constantly moving forward at the merest suggestion of an attack. They use it best to negate long dead ball kicks against them.

Portsmouth
Alan Ball, Portsmouth's manager, pays no particular attention to offside. "I tell my players to play it if it's on," he said. "But we don't work at it. Teams have exploited it to the limit."

Queen's Park Rangers
Jim Smith, the Queen's Park Rangers manager, introduced the sweeper system, with Fenwick as the central figure, at the start of the season. In the first 10 games, they conceded only five goals.

Sheffield Wednesday
Sheffield Wednesday's defensive strategy, which utilized a five-man rearguard, was unashamedly based around a comprehensive and effective offside game in their promotion season, 1983/84; but, in the wake of two disappointing years, Howard Wilkinson, the manager, is phasing it out.

Southampton
Chris Nicholl, Southampton's manager, said: "Our job is to play within the laws and get the best out of them. That's an excuse for saying 'yes we use offside sometimes'. But we don't run out to catch people offside."

Tottenham Hotspur
By the time Hodge was sent off 17 minutes into Terry Venables's managerial reign, Liverpool had strayed five times into their reinforced offside trap.

Watford
Watford do not regard offside as an essential part of defence. "We expect our defenders to push up as a containing measure and if the opposition are caught offside all well and good," Dave Bassett, the Watford manager, said.

Wimbledon
Bobby Gould, Wimbledon's manager, believes the law has to be reviewed because it does not meet the needs of the modern game. "There are too many grey areas," Gould said. "We use it as the rules permit."

Liverpool
Liverpool have never been totally reliant on the offside trap simply because their success over the past two decades has been built on a passing game. On the few occasions the club has tried the system, it has proved unsuccessful.

Global pointer: to Ron Greenwood offside is a defensive ploy that he finds offensive

Mixed reception for the non-League experiment

By Paul Newman

The offside rule is probably the most controversial law in football, but nobody has yet devised an acceptable amendment or alternative. Trial changes, such as declaring offside only in the penalty area or beyond a new line nearer the defenders' goal, have never proved successful in the past and an experiment this season in the GM Vauxhall Conference has had a mixed reception.

Under the experiment, which was proposed by the Football Association and has been sanctioned by FIFA, the game's governing body, no player can be declared offside when receiving the ball direct from a free kick. The idea is to create more goalmouth action and prevent defences pushing forward towards the halfway line at free kicks in the hope of catching the opposition offside.

The experiment has led to less congestion in the middle third of the pitch, less emphasis on defensive walls and more goalmouth activity. However, the most significant effect has been to put extreme pressure on goalkeepers at free kicks.

Attacking teams quickly realized that they could send several tall players deep into the penalty area and unnerve and unsight — if not legally obstruct — the goalkeeper. At most free kicks within range of goal, 15 or more players pack into the penalty area.

Graham Allner, the manager of Kidderminster Harriers, said: "The law change has suddenly made the free kick 10 yards inside your own half a potential goal scoring situation. In a way it can encourage teams to play the offside trap even more in moving-ball situations, because they want to win as many free kicks as possible so that they can keep pumping high balls into the penalty area."

Non-League's law

> **A player shall not be declared offside by the referee if he receives the ball, direct, from a goal kick, a corner kick, a throw-in, a free kick, or when it has been dropped by the referee.**

Because of this aspect the experiment has generally been greeted unfavourably by managers and coaches. Stan Storton, the manager of Telford United, said: "It's an absolute farce and is spoiling the quality of the football. Teams are using more six foot four inch and six foot five inch players this season and it can greatly reduce the skill factor."

However, Jim Thompson, the Conference chairman, has welcomed the change. "Managers will always be against it because it reduces the emphasis on coaching, but I think it's been good for spectators because it's created more goalmouth incidents," he said. "I think it increases the amount of actual play in a game and it stops bunching in the middle of the field."

Reg Paine, the FA's referees secretary and the man monitoring the experiment, agrees. "The change has undoubtedly created more goalmouth activity, which has got to be more exciting for spectators," he said. "The only question is whether it's the right sort of excitement."

The FA is analysing every Conference match this season and will present a detailed report on the experiment to the International Board next June.

HOCKEY

Southgate facing stamina test

By Sydney Friskin

Southgate's stamina will be severely tested tomorrow when they play two matches at Parkside, Neasden, the first against Firebrands in the third round of the Hockey Association Cup, to be followed immediately by a game in the Pizza Express London League, against London University.

The cup match against Firebrands was abandoned late in the second half at the same venue last Sunday with Southgate, the holders, leading 2-0, and they face the replay without Soma Sing and Welch, who are unavailable, and Western, who is on holiday. Their request for a postponement, as indeed that of Indian Gymkhana, has been denied.

The fly in the ointment has been a tour of Kenya by London Indians, which has left Indian Gymkhana high and dry. Five of their players, Daved, Butt, Rehncy, Sonny Soor and Dhami, have joined this tour. Welch and Soma Sing, of Southgate, are also on it. Gymkhana will play their postponed third round cup match against Olton and West Warwickshire at Feltham tomorrow much below strength.

Olton and West Warwickshire, a workmanlike side with Brough, a former Welsh international, and Palmer prominent in midfield, could make Kulbir Bhaura and his brother, Charanjit, work harder in Gymkhana's forward line, particularly as the main supply line, Daved will be missing. Olton's best hopes in attack are Darlaston and Benjamin.

Slough, having lost Davatval and Bhaji Flora, who are also in Kenya, and are uncertain about the availability of Kuljit Dhak for their postponed third round match against East Grinstead at Southall's artificial turf pitch, are nevertheless hoping to turn the tables on East Grinstead, who have beaten them twice before in the cup.

The remaining third round cup match between Old Loughtonians, the home side, and Derby, which was abandoned last Sunday in freezing fog with Old Loughtonians leading 3-0, will be replayed tomorrow at Chigwell.

St Albans, who are due to play either Indian Gymkhana or Olton and West Warwickshire on December 13 in the fourth round, will be without four players, Rowley, Ferns, Hurst and Halliday, all of whom will be on an England indoor training weekend and will be seeking a postponement.

Hounslow, with Potter, Grimley and Thompson available, face a crucial match today in the premier division of the London League against Slough at Feltham. Slough, the champions, are unbeaten at the top of the table with 14 points from sixmatches. Hounslow, who have already lost 2-1 to Southgate, have three points from two games.

The best match in the Tipp-Ex Yorkshire League is the one between Wakefield, the joint leaders, with Welton and Ben Rhydding who are fourth on the table.

● John Shaw, of Southgate, has dropped out of the British squad for next month's Six Nations' tournament in Barcelona because of injury. His place goes to Chris Mayer, from Cannock, who has yet to win a senior cap.

Hollins' season of ill-will continues

By Clive White

This time last year, goodwill to all men stopped short at John Hollins, the Chelsea manager. When supporters woke up to the unpleasant surprise of finding their team at the bottom of the first division tree, there was more than one kind of "holly" that they felt like hanging for Christmas.

But, despite persistent calls for Hollins's dismissal, Ken Bates stood by his man with aloyalty untypical of football chairmen. Since last December, when Chelsea's fortunes hit rock bottom with a 4-0 home defeat to Wimbledon, there has been a steady improvement.

Three successive wins, starting on Boxing Day, put Chelsea in a better frame of mind for the New Year and they hauled themselves into a respectable position to finish the season in fourteenth place. The year may end with a possible improvement on seventh place.

Yet, despite all this, the public, and certainly the media, seem unconvinced. Chelsea go into tomorrow's televised match against Liverpool at Anfield with the team, manager and chairman as much on trial as they were when they faced Liverpool before the television cameras at Anfield a year ago.

Since those happy days of the 1985-86 season, when Chelsea were at one time challenging strongly in all three major competitions, it has been a sorry and repetitive story of player unrest. No wonder the jolly has gone out of "Holly", the player who chuckled with great enthusiasm and unrivalled fitness across three decades at the very top of his profession.

One can hardly blame him for his cold indifference to the Press, who have hardly had a kind word to say about him in two years. "It's have a dig at Chelsea at every moment, in any shape or form, whether it be in the transfer market, personalities or crowd behaviour," he said.

While it has been alleged that Hollins runs scared of his chairman, he has certainly never been frightened to drop popular players whenever he has thought it necesary. This as much as anything has been at the root of the friction between himself and the Press.

Still under pressure: Hollins

The decision to drop Hazard, a particular crowd favourite, last week caused the latest outburst. Hollins maintained that until last week he had selected the player for every match for which he was fit. Tomorrow he is unfit with a stomach upset, Hollins said.

Unfortunately, the victims in this cold war between Hollins and the media are the supporters. Nowadays, a minimum of the right sort of publicity comes out of Stamford Bridge, as was evidenced by the opening exchange of this author's attempted interview. Question: why is your away form so poor this season? Answer: because we haven't won any matches. Chelsea supporters regularly write to the newspapers asking "What's going on at Chelsea?"

Tomorrow morning, leaflets are being distributed at Euston station asking supporters before they depart for Liverpool to help save Chelsca from Bates, Hollins and Walley, the coach.

Last week, against Wimbledon, they were watched by a crowd of 15,000, which was precisely what they got for the same fixture last season when they were struggling for their lives. Not that you would guess it, but Chelsea are one of London's big three clubs and have the potential to be the biggest, but they are being allowed to fade away.

Hollins has taken some unmerciful criticism, much of it surely unwarranted. Before matters become too far gone it would be in everyone's interest if the hatchets were buried once and for all. As Hollins said: "Football is a game to enthuse about and enjoy; if you don't, you should pack it in and go home."

Ferguson ready to alter club's disciplinary code

By Clive White

Alex Ferguson, the **Manchester United** manager, is ready to restructure his club's disciplinary code in the wake of this week's events in Bermuda where Clayton Blackmore, the Welsh international defender, was accused and then cleared of rape.

"We will have to look at the disciplinary structure at this club but we will get things right," Ferguson said."I have been here a year and I never thought the job would entail these sort of things. I am only just beginning to realize the magnitude of it all."

"There will always be problems for footballers and for all top sportsmen because they are all so vulnerable to all sorts of things. Someone like Bryan Robson has to take care with everything he says and does. I always believed in Clayton's innocence. He is not aggressive either on or off the field. He might be a better player if he were," he added.

The trip to Bermuda has further complicated United's injury problems. Still without McGrath, Garton, Colin Gibson and possibly Whiteside, Ferguson is forced into further change.

He is reluctant to risk Blackmore in his present state of mind against **Queen's Park Rangers** at Loftus Road this afternoon and Walsh has already been withdrawn after sustaining a head injury during the tour. United, having been granted permission to borrow Suckling from Manchester City, have decided instead to field Turner, who has not played this season because of a hip injury.

Rangers, however, smartly seized their opportunity of a loan deal when they missed the Thursday deadline for the £350,000 transfer of Falco from their fellow Rangers in Scotland. Falco is expected to face United.

Arsenal will not be making any changes even though a run of 14 consecutive victories has been replaced by a run of two defeats. No longer within striking distance of Liverpool, the leaders, they meet a **Sheffield Wednesday** side slowly recovering its health after multiple injuries left them languishing near the foot of the table.

Marwood may be restored to the side in the absence through suspension of Megson unless Howard Wilkinson, the manager, takes a more cautious approach and selects three centre backs.

Coventry City, whose exploits this season have looked as watered down as their pale blue strip in comparison to last season's acts of heroism, may start to play with more bravado with the restoration of Peake and Kilcline to the heart of defence at **Portsmouth** after a long absence. After eight games without a win John Sillett, the manager, was suitably relieved. "To have one back would have been a relief, to have both is a big bonus," he confirmed.

WEEKEND TEAM NEWS

Arsenal v Sheff Wed
Despite two consecutive defeats Arsenal will be unchanged. Merson and Caesar replace Hayes and Winterburn as substitutes. Wednesday may restore Marwood with Megson suspended. If not, Wednesday may field three central defenders, Madden, May and Pearson.

Charlton v Everton
Charlton are set to play Williams, recalled from a loan period with Brentford, because of injuries and illness affecting Leaburn, Lee and Crooks. Milne is also out with a hamstring injury and another youngster, Mortimer, is included in a squad of 14. Everton are unchanged.

Derby v Watford
Gregory, the Derby captain, has recovered from a groin strain and Cross an ankle injury. Lewis and Penney, who substituted impressively for theaforementioned duo at Southampton, are again included in the squad. Watford have doubts about Rostron (groin) and Sterling (knee). Agana, Holdsworth and Roberts are added to last week's team.

Luton v Norwich
Kenny Brown, the son of the former Norwich manager, has been dropped and Culverhouse promoted in his place in an otherwize unchanged side. Weir comes into the Luton team for Mark Stein who starts a suspension. Wilson and Hill are back in the squad.

Oxford v Newcastle
With Dreyer recovering from influenza, Oxford will be unchanged. Roeder and McCreery return for Newcastle after injury but Goddard and Jackson have both failed fitness tests on thigh injuries.

Portsmouth v Coventry
Kilcline and Peake are recalled to the Coventry defence after long absences through injury. Regis is still absent with a hamstring injury. Fillery, who is on the transfer list, is recalled by Portsmouth because Kennedy and Dillon are suspended. Connor returns after a back injury.

QPR v Manc Utd
Blackmore is unlikely to play for United despite Anderson's absence with a foot injury. A hip injury will not prevent Turner from making his first appearance of the season in goal; Walsh has a head injury. McGrath (ankle), Gibson (hamstring) and Garton (concussion) are all unavailable. Falco is included in the Rangers squad.

West Ham v S'oton
Southampton include all three Wallace brothers in their squad, Danny and Rodney, both forwards, and Raymond, a full back, though the team is unlikely to change. Two will play and one will partner Hobson on the bench. Hilton (knee) and Brady (back) require tests for West Ham.

Wimbledon v Nottm F
Goodyear returns for Wimbledon in place of Young after recovering from a septic toe. With Carr still injured Plummer gets another chance, after last week's postponement, to make his return for Forest after an absence of five years. Wilkinson and Gaynor have fitness checks. Glover is on standby.

Tomorrow

Liverpool v Chelsea
Clarke faces a fitness test on a knee injury and Hall, 19, has been placed on standby. Bumstead is in contention for his first league game of the season but Hazard is out with a stomach complaint. Beardsley is expected to return for Liverpool after a knee injury. Spackman, formerly of Chelsea, may be named as a substitute.

The lure of cash as well as glory

By Paul Newman

Forty clubs go into the second round of the FA Cup this weekend with only one goal in mind: to qualify for Monday's third round draw and await the fame and fortune that it can bring.

For the 11 remaining non-League clubs in particular, reaching the third round could ensure financial security for years to come. One match away to a leading first division club could bring in more gate receipts than a whole season of league matches. Today's ties between **Maidstone United** and **Kidderminster Harriers** and **Welling United** and **Bath City** ensure that at least two non-League clubs will play in the next round.

If Cup pedigree is an important factor, then **Yeovil Town**, who travel to **Cambridge United**, could join them. Yeovil have reached the third round on nine previous occasions and in so doing have knocked out 12 Football League clubs. Brian Hall, their manager, also has an excellent track record in the Cup, having been Wimbledon's coach during their giant-killing days of the mid-1970s.

However, it is 15 years since Yeovil last knocked out a League club and two years ago they were relegated from the GM Vauxhall Conference to the Vauxhall-Opel League.

Hall said: "Yeovil may have beaten Sunderland in 1949, but the fact is that the club's record has been so poor in recent years that we had to start in the first qualifying round this season. But I've got to say it's good to be back doing well in the Cup. It means big crowds, a great atmosphere, and everyone loves that."

Yeovil have a sound defence and Hall believes that could be important today. "Like us, Cambridge don't score many goals so we must have a realistic chance," he said.

No one in the second round has as fine a giant-killing record as John King, **Runcorn**'s manager. He managed and played for Altrincham in many of their most famous Cup matches and his present side brought off the result of the first round, a 1-0 victory away to Chester City, of the third division.

Today's task at home to **Stockport County**, struggling in the fourth division, appears easier, but King warned: "Any team managed by Asa Hartford will be a good footballing side and there's no question of this being a bigger match for us than it is for them. It's just as important for Stockport to get into the third round as it is for us."

Sutton United, **Macclesfield Town**, and **Lincoln City**, the three other non-League clubs to beat League teams in the last round, all have reasons for confidence, despite facing more difficult tasks this time.

Sutton, away to **Peterborough United**, and Macclesfield, at home to **Rotherham United** tomorrow , have both been in excellent form in recent weeks and Lincoln, away to **Mansfield Town**, have recovered after a mediocre start to the season, and are now pressing for an immediate return to the fourth division.

£3,000 for appeal fund

The Enniskillen Appeal Fund could benefit by close to £3,000 after an exhibition match at Windsor Park on Thursday night between a Linfield-Glentoran selection and an Irish League XI (George Ace writes).

The Linfield manager, Roy Coyle, who is beset by injuries with his leading goalscorer, McGaughey, and the captain, Jeffrey, almost certain to be ruled out of today's tough away game against Newry Town, must have been pleased with the form of Duncan MacLeod. He scored twice in the 7-1 defeat of the League side.

Benfica post

Benfica, the Portuguese champions, who last week dismissed Ebbe Skovdahl, their manager, have put Antonio Oliveira Toni, their assistant manager, in charge until the end of the season.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Gill hoists Wigan's heavy load

By Keith Macklin

With only one win in four league games, Wigan are having an unusually difficult time these days. The side has suffered from injuries, but with the vast reserve strength at Central Park not too many of these problems were expected.

Although Wigan have reached the semi-finals of the John Player Special Trophy, their form has not impressed Graham Lowe, their coach, nor has it enchanted their discriminating and demanding supporters. Now the almost unthinkable is beginning to happen: attendances are slipping.

Tomorrow at Central Park, Wigan have the opportunity to return to the comforts of winning when they face Leigh. The visitors are also undergoing a sticky patch, with the directors under fire and the team suffering reverse after reverse.

Widnes, the championship leaders, are brimming with confidence after their win at Halifax. They are at home to Hull, and although the visitors gave St Helens a scare last weekend, home advantage should enable Widnes to stay well clear of pursuit.

Warrington, who were shattered by their John Player defeat at the hands of Oldham, have a home game against Swinton, and should bounce back into form against yet another struggling side.

An outstanding open game should be provided by Leeds and Castleford, who have a derby game at Headingley which should continue the sequence of five-figure attendances at the ground. Castleford beat Wigan on Wednesday, and are quite capable of upsetting the expensive Leeds line-up, which has yet to click into gear.

St Helens travel to meet Hull Kingston Rovers, and will not be too confident about success against another Humberside club who are emerging from a recent trough.

In the second division, there are two excellent promotion battles in prospect, with Barrow visiting Featherstone Rovers and Rochdale Hornets travelling to Wakefield Trinity.

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CRICKET

Stick-in-the-mud England again fail to fly the flag

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Sahiwal

Although it lasted for only just over five playing hours, I am not sure I can remember a day's play that seemed any longer or more moribund than yesterday's between England and the Chief Minister of the Punjab's XI. With almost unrelieved dourness England took their second innings from nine for no wicket, which they were overnight, to 222 for five declared.

Leading by 286, they then gave themselves half a dozen overs' bowling, very few but enough, I hope, for them to have wished that they had made some sort of effort to win the match. When play ended and the team made the journey to Faisalabad, where the second Test match starts on Monday, the home side were 21 for three.

It seemed to me that England had come reluctantly to Sahiwal in the first place and never had the slightest intention of making the best of their visit. Their "justification", of course, was that priority had to be given to get in practice for Monday; but the best tonic would have been to win the match, preferably with the captain present and urging them on, much as he may have felt the need of a break.

Mickey Stewart thought the facilities were not good enough for a game that should and could have served a useful purpose between Tests. There were, he said, no nets at which to practice. But I wonder what England had done to try to make sure that there would be. At Rawalpindi a fortnight ago, when there were no complaints about the facilities, England played in just the same cagy, canny way that they did here.

Whether they like it or not, they have an obligation to fly the flag away from the main centres and a duty to show the three-day game in a better light than they did yesterday. Quite apart from that, it is much more fun trying to win a game and a visit is correspondingly more pleasurable.

This was, in fact, the last first-class match that will be played at the Zafar Oval. The square boundaries are considered too short, and that is a pity. A great deal of county cricket in England has been played on smaller, less suitable grounds than this, though the pitch, which was of rolled mud, was very slow.

I thought the place would have been perfectly adequate for England's purpose had their approach been different. Although the new stadium will be bigger, which is why it is being built, a lot of fine trees will be left behind.

The most enterprising cricket in the match was the leg-spin bowling of Mushtaq Ahmed on the first day and Zahoor's blistering 62 on the second. Saleem Jaffer bowled well in England's first innings, and the accuracy which Zakir Khan showed for the first two hours yesterday was admirable. The fact that Zakir was kept on for so long did nothing to enliven the proceedings.

In the absence of Salim Malik, who was taking no chances with a damaged hand, the opposition were captained by Dalpat, who became the first Hindu to play cricket for Pakistan when he kept wicket against Willis's side four years ago.

As in England's first innings, Broad was caught at the wicket off a good ball that left him off the pitch. Robinson looked as certain as could be to plod on to a hundred when he drove the off-spinner, Raza, to deep mid-off, who, like deep mid-on, had been occupied fielding singles taken off half-volleys. By lunch Fairbrother had been dropped at mid-on, an awkward chance, and in two hours and a half only 33 overs had been bowled.

The lunch interval being extended to an hour for Friday prayers made the day even more protracted. Through the afternoon Fairbrother continued to show that he can be as obdurate as anyone when he puts his mind to it.

When he was caught at slip in the last over before tea he had made 71 runs in the match from 218 balls and played like a real stick-in-the-mud. Yet in doing so he looked a cricketer. Hard work as he found it, he will feel better for having reached his first half-century for England abroad.

No sooner had Dilley and DeFreitas, both bowling fast, picked up three wickets after a tea-time declaration than, with another half-hour available, everyone trooped off. For the first time in the day England at the time were looking something like a side in search of confidence

Capel, by the way, marked the reappearance of England's microwave oven by going down with tummy trouble. The team stayed at the Montgomery (the old name for Sahiwal) Biscuit Factory's guest-house, a veritable palace compared with what things often used to be like up country, and nothing was too much trouble for their hosts. Jarvis is expected to return home next week to try to get himself fully fit for New Zealand and Australia after Christmas.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND XI: First Innings 279 (R T Robinson 51; Mushtaq Ahmed 6 for 81).

Second Innings

B C Broad c Dalpat b Zakir	17
R T Robinson c Zakir b Raza	75
N H Fairbrother c sub b Zulfiqar	68
C W J Athey lbw b Raza	20
P A J DeFreitas c Elahi b Miandad	16
†B N French not out	22
Extras (b 1, lb 4)	5
Total (5 wkts dec)	222

D J Capel, *J E Emburey, E E Hemmings, N G B Cook and G R Dilley did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-125, 3-160, 4-185, 5-222.

BOWLING: Jaffer 11-3-31-0; Zakir 15-4-29-1; Mushtaq 7-0-32-0; Raza 21-4-58-2; Zulfiqar 7.4-1-25-1; Miandad 15-1-43-1.8.

CHIEF MINISTER'S XI: First Innings 215 (Zahoor Elahi 62).

Second Innings

Aamir Sohail not out	12
Zahoor Elahi b Dilley	0
Anwar Miandad b DeFreitas	3
Akram Raza c French b Dilley	0
†Anil Dalpat not out	0
Extras (nb 6)	6
Total (3 wkts)	21

*Salim Malik, Mansoor Rana, Zakir Khan, Saleem Jaffer, Mushtaq Ahmed and Zulfiqar Butt did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-12, 2-16, 3-17.

BOWLING: Dilley 3-0-8-2; DeFreitas 3-0-13-1.

Umpires: Mahboob Ali and Iftikhar Malik.

Crowe stands firm amid NZ collapse

Brisbane, (Reuter) — Martin Crowe, with a steady 67, offered the only notable resistance as Australia's fast bowlers dominated the first day of the first Test against New Zealand yesterday.

The touring side, 119 for three at tea, lost six wickets in the final session on a wicket which had lost its early bite. At the close they were 181 for nine.

Hughes and McDermott each claimed three wickets and Reid two in a fine display in the field by an Australian side brimming with confidence after their World Cup success.

Wright, having put on 52 with Martin Crowe to rescue New Zealand from 28 for two, played at a ball from Hughes which he could well have left alone and gave the wicketkeeper, Dyer, a simple catch.

After tea, with Martin Crowe well set on 67, the moustachioed Hughes tempted the young master with a long hop. He slashed at the ball and Waugh at cover point held a superb catch above his head.

Another indifferent delivery from Hughes soon afterwards accounted for all-rounder Hadlee. He edged it straight to Boon at first slip and the New Zealand innings rapidly turned into a rout.

McDermott had Patel caught behind for eight and Reid trapped Smith leg before for two before Waugh's second catch of the day to remove Morrison for nought off the final ball of the day, the fourth of McDermott's 21st over.

The day had begun just as well for the Australians after Border had asked New Zealand to bat first on the grassy, moist Gabba pitch. His decision was justified as early as the fourth ball of the match when Veletta, with his first touch of the ball in Test cricket, caught Rutherford at forward short leg with New Zealand yet to score.

McDermott struck just 28 runs later when Jones, having scored four in 90 minutes, left his leg stump unguarded once too often.

Wright never looked totally in command during his 127-minute innings of 38 while captain Jeff Crowe was shielded by his younger brother from the bowling for much of his innings of 16. The New Zealand captain was eventually leg before to Waugh.

Martin Crowe looked in a different class from the other batsmen as he stroked his 14th half century in Tests from 114 balls. His choice of ball to punish and strokeplay were immaculate until his dismissal, although he was dropped by Boon at first slip off Reid immediately after his brother's departure.

NEW ZEALAND: First Innings

K R Rutherford c Veletta b Reid	0
J G Wright c Dyer b Hughes	38
A N Jones b McDermott	4
M D Crowe c Waugh b Hughes	67
*J J Crowe lbw b Waugh	16
D N Patel c Dyer b McDermott	17
R J Hadlee c Boon b Hughes	8
J G Bracewell not out	6
†I D S Smith lbw b Reid	2
D K Morrison c Waugh b McDermott	0
Extras (b 1, lb 7, w 4, nb 11)	23
Total (9 wkts)	181

E J Chatfield to bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-28, 3-80, 4-133, 5-143, 6-153, 7-175, 8-180, 9-181.

BOWLING: Reid 23-10-35-2; McDermott 20.4-4-43-3; Hughes 18-5-40-3; Waugh 22-9-35-1; Sleep 6-1-20-0.

AUSTRALIA: *A R Border (capt), G R Marsh, D C Boon, D M Jones, M R G Veletta, S R Waugh, P R Sleep, †G C Dyer, C J McDermott, M G Hughes, B A Reid.

Richardson made to rue misses

Pune (Reuter) — Raman Lamba made the most of being dropped twice at slip to help Mohinder Amarnath, the North Zone captain, build a solid 167 for one in reply to West Indies' first innings total of 536 for seven declared yesterday.

Richardson twice put down Lamba as he added 110 with Amarnath, who showed increasing assurance and once hit three successive fours off Butts and two off Benjamin in his flawless half-century.

Overnight, Harper, the acting West Indies captain, declined to call a halt and added 118 for the sixth wicket with Baptiste as only Sharma kept accuracy and was rewarded with four wickets.

WEST INDIES: First Innings

C G Greenidge st Vinayak b Inder Singh	58
D L Haynes c and b Sharma	70
R B Richardson b Prakhakar	147
P V Simmons c and b Inder Singh	2
C L Hooper c sub b Sharma	41
*R A Harper b Sharma	82
E A E Baptiste not out	75
†D A Williams c Vinayak b Sharma	33
W K M Benjamin not out	7
Extras (nb 16, lb 5)	21
Total (7 wkts dec)	536

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-108, 2-193, 3-196, 4-313, 5-354, 6-472, 7-524.

W W Davis and C G Butts did not bat.

BOWLING: Prakhakar 18-1-104-1, Ghai 17-1-133-0, Amarnath 9-2-14-0, Mahesh Inder Singh 46-7-175-2, Sharma 28-4-105-4

NORTH ZONE: First Innings

S C Khanna lbw b Baptiste	25
R M Lamba not out	64
*M B Amarnath not out	51
Extras (b 9, lb 10, nb 8)	27
Total (1 wkt)	167

K Bhaskar, A Sharma, †R Vinayak, M Prabhakar, A Kaypee, R S Ghai, M Inder Singh and G Singh to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-57.

BOWLING: Davis 11-1-33-0; Benjamin 15-4-42-0; Baptiste 13-3-26-1; Butts 13-1-45-0; Harper 2-0-2-0.

SKIING

Swish Swiss: Walliser, the overall champion, turns training trauma into downhill dream run

Relaxed Walliser tightens Switzerland's stranglehold

From Iain Macleod, Val d'Isère

Any suggestion of vulnerability within the ranks of the Swiss women's squad were scuppered when Maria Walliser, the world champion, celebrated winning her country's sportswoman of the year award for the second successive time yesterday by confounding everyone and taking her first World Cup downhill race since March.

Walliser's 1min 21.14sec timing down the Goitschel piste here was 0.05sec ahead of Michele Figini, the champion, while Zoe Hees, finished third in 1min 21.38sec, as the Swiss added six top ten placings to their medals clean sweep and continued their dominance of last season when they won all ten World Cup and world championship titles.

Yet the defending overall champion's victory was unexpected after 22nd, 25th and thirtieth placings in training did not auger well. "Today was a surprise," Walliser said, explaining that an ability to relax was her secret of success.

"I knew that I could be fast. I really don't know what was going wrong in training. I had tried to attack; to have more confidence; now I just relaxed."

The course presented very little technical difficulty. "I knew my skies were very good and the team had confidence in me. I had to find my own way."

Walliser's self-belief and the lessons learnt from last week's disappointing Swiss performances in the slaloms in Sestriere and Courmayeur proved a powerful motivating force. "We were too confident; too sure of ourselves," she said.

Figini expressed disappointment after her dominance in training. "It was a good run," she said, but felt she had lost the vital hundredths on the top section. "If the weather does not change, I feel I can do much better tomorrow."

Another disappointed Swiss yesterday was Conradin Cathomen, a men's winner here in 1983, who broke his left forearm in practice for today's opening downhill race after crashing into awooden timing device.

RESULTS: Downhill: Women: 1, M Walliser (Switz), 1:21.14; 2, M Figini (Switz), 1:21.19; 3, Z Haas (Switz), 1:21.38; 4, L Graham (Can), 1:21.53; 5, B Orth (Switz), 1:21.70; 6, M Kiehl (WG), 1:21.76; =7, H Zeller (Switz), 1:22.14; M Gerg (WG), 1:22.14; 9, K Percy (Can), 1:22.24; 10, C Bournissen (Switz), 1:22.36; 11, R Mosenlechner (WG), 1:22.38; 12, K Casey (Can), 1:22.41; 13, S Wolf (Austria), 1:22.48; 14, K Lee (Can), 1:22.85; 15, C Meier (WG), 1:22.90. British placings: 44, W Lumby, 1:25.33; 52, C Booth, 1:26.85; 56, I Grant, 1:27.26. Points overall: 1, M Svet (Yug), 40; 2, B Fernandez Ochoa (Sp), 35; 3, Wolf, 28; 4, A Wachter (Austria), 26; 5, Walliser, 25; 6, I Ladstaetter (Austria), 22; =7, V Schneider (Switz) and M Gerg (WG), 21; =9, C Kinshofer-Guedein (WG) and Figini, 20; =11, C Nilsson (Swe) and U Maier (Austria), 18; =13, Eder and Haas, 15; 15, Kiehl, 13. Men's practice: First run: 1, M Mair (It), 1:59.53; 2, R Boyd (Can), 1:59.59; 3, P Zurbriggen (Switz), 1:59.81; 4, F Belczyk (Can), 1:59.98; 5, M Girardelli (Lux), 2:00.42. Second run: 1, P Mueller (Switz), 2:00.13; 2, Mair, 2:00.53; 3, Zurbriggen, 2:00.61; 4, K Alpiger (Switz), 2:01.33; 5, P Schuler (Switz), 2:01.44.

BOXING

Graham's patchwork can revive his career

By Srikumar Sen, Boxing Correspondent

Herol Graham and Brendan Ingle are back in harness and the Sheffield middleweight's supporters should see the old "Bomber" in action against Ricky Stackhouse, of the United States, at the Adwick Leisure Centre, Doncaster, tonight.

Graham and Ingle have spent the last three months patching up their differences that made the boxer move from Ingle's gym in Wincobank to another part of town and have now "got their double act together again."

For the last three weeks, they have been training in Graham's manager, B J Eastwood's gym in Belfast. But Graham has set aside the totally aggressive style that Eastwood's Panamanian trainers had tried to instil in him before his disastrous bout with Sumbu Kalambay, the world champion, last May.

What was good for little men like Barry McGuigan and Dave McAuley and Panamanians did not suit Graham, Ingle has always maintained.

"It's back to the old stuff," Ingle said. "Herol has come to terms with his defeat and has trained well and his enthusiasm has returned."

Graham, who had personal problems before the Kalambay contest, confirmed that he is in perfect shape, physically and mentally, and intends to regain his No. 1 ranking.

"I missed my chance. This time I am dead right and I don't intend to miss anything," he said.

But the American from Atlanta, has similar ideas. "I am going to outpoint the guy. The only way he can beat me is by knocking me out. I regard this fight as a stepping stone," said Stackhouse.

Jerry Hill, Stackhouse's manager, said that he has had talks with the managers of Frank Tate, the International Boxing Federation champion, and Kalambay, who holds the World Boxing Association title. "We have come to win and after this fight we will be looking for Tate or Kalambay."

However, Stackhouse is little more than a good journeyman. He is rated thirtieth on the World Boxing Council list and if Graham cannot beat him he has no business chasing world titles.

Overtures go out to Bassa from Belfast

Dave McAuley, the British flyweight champion from Larne, has put himself in line for a second tilt at the world title early in the new year (George Ace writes).

McAuley's manager, Barney Eastwood, said: "The world title fight between the holder, Fidel Bassa, and Hilario Zapate later this month has been cancelled and Bassa now has a hometown defence lined up. But I am very confident of luring him back to the King's Hall late January or early February."

McAuley, in his first contest since his memorable battle last April with the rugged Colombian for the World Boxing Association's 8st crown, gave a thoroughly workmanlike performance on Thursday night at the Ulster Hall, Belfast, against Roy Thompson, of Panama.

The referee scored the 10-round bout 100-94½ although McAuley did pay tribute to his former sparring partner's durability. "I caught him with some real good shots but he just kept bouncing back" he said.

"I am satisfied with my performance and if my manager can fix me another crack at the world title I'll be happy."

SHOW JUMPING

Whitaker fails by a fraction to beat Frenchman

From Jenny MacArthur, Bordeaux

The Frenchman, Edouard Couperie, whose uncle, Emeric, founded the International Horse Show here, foiled the British of an opening win yesterday when he and Mokeur de la Peney won the Prix Coca-Cola by a fraction of a second from Michael Whitaker on Next Flarepath.

With most riders using the class as a warm-up for tomorrow's World Cup qualifier, the main event of the show, the competition proved well contested with 14 riders — half the class — reaching the jump-off including three of the seven British riders here.

Mokeur de la Peney did well to be amongst them. He missed last season through injury but Couperie has wasted no time in getting the nine-year-old gelding back on form.

In October they competed at, the Helsinki World Cup Show, the opening event in the series of 10 qualifiers, and the same month finished thirteenth in the French Championships

The gelding's careful jumping was shown to telling effect in yesterday's jump-off. A set of flimsy looking pale-blue planks proved to be the jinx fence. Nick Skelton, one of the three British riders to reach the second round, collected four faults at this fence on Kaoua, a horse he was asked to ride only last month due to the usual rider breaking his leg.

When Couperie entered the ring none of the previous seven riders had gone clear. From the start, the Frenchman, aged 30, looked set to alter the record — much to the delight of the hundreds of babbling schoolchildren around the arena who, having seen their national hero Pierre Durand go out in the first round with four faults on Jappeloup de Luze, were eagerly awaiting the chance to acclaim another hero.

Couperie's copybook round was followed by a succession of dull performances with riders opting for a slow clear round to get into the prize money rather than having a crack at winning.

Michael Whitaker was having none of that. Next Flarepath, an eight-year-old mare was only grade B when he started riding her two years ago but his confidence in her has grown with each outing. Yesterday the mare's athletic turns and scopey jumping belied her inexperience.

Malcolm Pyrah, going last — a position he relishes — looked set to challenge the leaders on Towerlands Anglezarke, who has come quickly back to form after his fall in Brussels last week. But hopes were dashed after an untypical mistake at the first fence

RESULTS: Prix Coca-Cola: 1, Mokeur de la Peney (E Couperie, France) 0 in 40.48 sec; 2, Next Flarepath (M Whitaker, GB) 0 in 40.86; 3, Horetto Z (W Van Der Ham, Neth) 0 in 44.90.

ATHLETICS

Meeting of mayhem in prospect

By Pat Butcher
Athletics Correspondent

Anyone who thought the recent dissolution of the British Amateur Athletic Board into the Amateur Athletic Association was the last hiccup on the road to a single governing body for the sport will be rudely disabused of that notion at the annual general meeting of the AAA in *Cardiff today. Mayhem* is promised.

It may not go as far as the whispered threats of legal action between the Southern Counties Amateur Athletic Association and its parent body, the AAA, over who owns the rights to the money-spinning Peugeot Talbot Games. Today's argument is left over from last year's AGM.

A Swindon AC motion last year, calling upon the AAA to open up details of its contracts with Independent Television and Alan Pascoe Associates, was bought off with promises of a working party. That has not materialized, and the reason being given by the AAA is that Mike Ison, who negotiated with Swindon to drop the motion, was secretary of the Southern Counties association, so it was the SCAAA's responsibility.

Accordingly, Salford AC is moving a censure motion against the AAA general committee for failing to establish the working party.

The club, have good cause for their suspicion, especially when a projected £500,000 expenditure on payments to athletes for last summer's competitions turns into £852,500. And when the AAA limited company has a turnover for the year well in excess of £4m, and yet a deficit after tax.

GOLF

Woosnam example gives hope

By John Hennessy

Just as the PGA European tour grows in stature and reward, so the quality of potential recruits rises in proportion. Among an array or former amateur internationals striving for their players' "union" card over the next six days at La Manga there are six Walker Cup players, a half of them gathered from this season's crop.

The three new boys at the school are Jeremy Robinson, Colin Montgomerie and John McHenry, who, respectively, this year won the English strokeplay championship, the Scottish match-play championship and led Ireland to victory in the European team championship.

All three dipped their toes in the water of professional golf before the season's end, but thanks to the patronage of tournaments sponsors.

The three old stagers are David Gilford, Sandy Stephen and John Hawksworth. Gilford and Stephen won their cards last year, by finishing in the top 50, but in positions too lowly to allow them full participation in PGA tour events.

With winnings of £5443, Gilford was £1055 below the target needed to retain his card for 1988. Stephen was £2348 short.

Other prominent English candidates among the field of 239 from 23 nations are Craig Laurence, the national match-play champion of 1983, and Mark Davis, who won the stroke-play title (Brabazon Trophy) the following year.

If they, and others, feel near to dispair let them reflect that Ian Woosman had to go through the school three times. And look where he is nine years later!

SQUASH RACKETS

Finals get underway for the allcomers

By Colin McQuillan

The world's largest individual knock-out sporting competition culminates over the next few days at the unlikely location of Temple Meads Station, Bristol, where the finals of the InterCity National Squash Challenge feature the distillation of more than 9,000 entries ranging from schoolchildren to pensioners, and champions to also rans.

The challenge is a scheme devised by the high-speed passenger service of British Rail to bring many of their customers into direct connection with the national elite of their favourite sport.

Today on the all-transparent Perspex court mounted on the rail bed of Brunel's famous old Great Western train shed at Temple Meads, nine Challenge 125 Finals, for schoolchildren, students and club players with no team experience, are scheduled, while the InterCity National championships second round continue at the Redwood Lodge Club.

Tomorrow the third round proper moves on to the Perspex court. Another six Challenge finals, for veteran over-45s, vintage over-50s and local provincial newspaper readers, will play in between main competition matches on Monday. Open Pullman Finals for men, women and British Rail employees will precede the main finals on Thursday.

These are not matches to devalue the occasion. Gehan Fernando, of Barnet, the Dunlop Club Champion of Champions and a hungry young club professional eager to work his way up to national significance, plays Murray Scott, a Sheffield engineer, in the men's Open Pullman.

Among the school finalists is Simon Parke, the Yorkshire teenager who galvanized the squash world last season by challenging the women's world champion, Susan Devoy, to a £2,000 head-to-head prize match.

And at the other end of the age scale, Mohamed Yasin, former British Open finalist and currently coach to Jansher Khan, the new Pakistani phenomenon, meets Yorkshire's Mike Grundy in the men's veteran final.

Soutter is ruthless

Lucy Soutter is in the mood to regain the title she won in 1985 on the evidence of her swift win in the opening round of the InterCity National Championships at Bristol yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). Pat Francis of Lancashire lasted only 17 minutes and secured only five points.

Preceding Soutter on court was Donna Vardy, aged 16, who captained England to victory in the junior world team championship. Now she wants to be senior world champion. "Everything is geared to fulfilling that ambition," she said after beating Pauline Nicholl, of Cumbria, 9-3, 9-6, 6-9, 9-4.

A chance totest her progress could come against the second favourite, Martine Le Moignan in the quarter-finals.

RESULTS: Men: Preliminary round: A Thomson bt T Salisbury 5-9, 9-7, 9-4, 9-8; M Scott bt A Kaoud 9-2, 9-1, 5-9, 9-4; I Robinson bt M Puertas 5-9, 9-5, 9-7, 9-4; G Miller bt C Payne 10-8, 9-0, 3-9, 9-2; S Meads bt S Ford 9-6, 9-1, 9-0; M Woodliffe bt S Farrar 9-1, 9-1, 9-2; R Millman bt G Fernando 8-10, 9-5, 3-9, 9-5, 9-4; S Parke bt P Chaplin 9-3, 9-1, 9-3; G Robinson bt M Lappage 5-9, 9-4, 9-0, 9-1; J Foster bt G Bollington 9-7, 8-10, 10-8, 9-5; J Evans bt T Hall 9-7, 9-7, 9-1; C McManus bt R Shay 9-2, 9-5, 9-0; P Wickenden bt G Hoare 9-1, 9-4, 9-1; P Verow bt R Mosley 9-3, 9-1, 9-2; M Baker bt R Elliott 9-2, 9-2, 9-4; A Evans bt S Calvert 9-5, 9-6, 9-8; D Lee bt M Helal 10-8, 10-9, 9-6; D Harris bt L Gojnic 9-2, 9-5, 9-6; A Davies bt J Cornish 9-1, 9-1, 9-4; N Stiles bt N Ryan 9-10, 9-5, 9-3, 9-3; D Meddings bt A Danzey 3-9, 9-1, 9-4 9-5; M Wyatt bt P Gregory 9-2, 9-6, 7-7, ret.

Women: Preliminary round: S-A Riley bt M Ward 9-4, 9-3, 3-9, 9-10, 9-2; S Wright bt C Foulkes, 9-2, 1-9, 9-3, 9-7; C Mett bt R Taylor, 5-9, 9-3, 9-6, 9-3; S Brown bt S Johnson, 10-8, 3-9, 9-6, 9-3; L Soutter bt P Francis, 9-2, 9-0, 9-3; D Vardy bt P Nicholl, 9-3, 9-6, 6-9, 9-4; S Fury bt C Candy, 9-4, 9-4, 10-8.

REAL TENNIS

Deuchar wins his place in the final

Lachlan Deuchar, the holder, defeated Jonathan Howell, the professional, at Bordeaux, 6-4, 6-4, 6-3 in the semi-finals of the George Wimpey Open singles championship at Hampton Court yesterday (William Stephens writes). He will meet the winner of the game between Wayne Davies, the world champion, and Chris Ronaldson, the former world champion.

Today's doubles final is between Davies and Deuchar, the holders, and Norwood Cripps and Paul Tabley. They beat Ronaldson and Mick Dean, the former holders, 5-6, 6-5, 6-3, 6-4 on Thursday evening.

In the women's singles second round yesterday Katrina Allen, the first seed, beat Gill 5-6, 6-4, 6-5. Then Sally Jones, last year's runner-up, eliminated Penny Fellows, 6-2, 6-5.

Fellows is a rapidly-improving competitor; in the women's world doubles championship last April, Fellows and Melissa Meisl took the world singles champions, Judy Clarke and Jane Hyland, to three close sets, losing 5-6, 6-5, 4-6.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

CARDIFF: Welsh Open championship: Men's singles, second round (GB unless stated): S Baddeley bt J Mellor, 15-2, 15-9; Pyun Kwang-min (S Korea) bt Kim Hyun-jin (S Korea), 15-7, 15-11; M Smith bt K Scott, 15-8, 4-15, 15-1; Lee Kwang-jin (S Korea) bt M Johnson, 10-15, 15-7, 15-12; P Smith bt V Elber (WG), 17-14, 17-14; P Suidwan (S Korea) bt Kim Hak-kyun (S Korea), 17-14, 15-11; M Elliott bt Yuneun Chul (S Korea), 18-18, 15-11; V Kumar (India) bt I Wright, 15-2, 15-4. Quarter-finals: S Baddeley bt Pyun Kwang-min (S Korea), 15-4, 15-3. Women's singles, second round: F Elliott bt C Skropke (WG), 11-6, 11-5; Kim Suk-ja (S Korea) bt J Allen, 11-8, 3-11, 11-7; K Schmidt (WG) bt B Blair, 11-7, 11-4; Lee Mung-mi (S Korea) bt S Louis, 11-6, 11-6; J Munda bt E Allen, 11-3, 11-5; A Fisher bt S Hore, 6-11, 11-7, 11-8; C Palmer bt K Schneider (WG), 11-3, 11-0; Gil Young-a (S Korea) bt C Hattens (Den), 8-11, 11-3, 11-5.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG LEAGUE: Derby Rams 78 (Chrabascz 26, Tanner 24), Birmingham Bullets 92 (Ogume 24, Gaither 24). EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP: Men's Quarter-final, second series: Barcelona 88, Aris Salonika (Gr) 89; Tracer Milan 93, Partizan Belgrade 83. EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS CUP: Women's semi-final, first series: Stade Francais Versailles 67, Jedinstvo-Aida (Yug) 69; Primigi Vicenza (It) 101, Agon Düsseldorf 74. UNITED STATES: National Association (NBA): Atlanta Hawks 102, Washington Bullets 94; Phoenix Suns 120, New York Knicks 114.

BOXING

SOUTHEND: Professional tournament: Middleweight (8 rounds): T Markus (London) bt G Beard (Nottingham), rsc, 5th rnd. Super-featherweight (8 rounds): Mark Reefer (Bethnal Green) bt George Jones (Telford), rsc, 3rd rnd. Welterweight (8 rounds): Del Bryan (Nottingham) bt Michael Hughes (St Pancras), pts. Light-heavyweight (8 rounds): [illegible] Campbell (Brockley) bt Michael Abrey (Canvey Island), pts. Heavyweight (8 rounds): Gary Mason (Wandsworth) bt Sam Scott (US), rsc, 2nd rnd.

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: Cambridge University Past, and Present 41, South Koreans 38.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Abingdon 0, St Edward's Oxford 24; Adams 12, Wrekin 22; Churcher's 13, Peter Simmons 8; Cornwall 14, Truro 38; Emanuel 23, Sutton Valence 0; King Edward's Aston 4, Bishop Vesey's GS 3; King's Gloucester 3, Prior Park 0; Lord William's 8, Henley 0; Oratory 13, London Oratory 8; Wellington (Somerset) 23, Kelly 0.

GOLF

AUCKLAND: New Zealand Open: Second round leaders (Australian unless stated): 134: W Grady, 65, 69; V Somers, 67, 67. 135: A Lyle, (GB), 68, 67; R Davis, 69, 66; J Anderson (Can), 69, 66; P Foley, 65, 70; M Colandro (US), 70, 65. 136: J Benepe (US), 74, 64; O Moore, 67, 71; R Stevens, 73, 65. 139: R Rafferty (GB), 69, 70; G Taylor (US), 68, 71. Other British: 140: D Llewellyn, 68, 72. 142: G Brand, 68, 74; S Torrance, 71, 71.
LARGO, Florida: Largo Classic mixed team tournament: First round leaders (Men named first; US unless stated): 62: K Perry and S Little (SA). 65: M Hulbert and V Skinner; P Azinger and J Stephenson (Aus); S Jones and J Crafter (Aus); M Hatalsky and D White. 66: R Black and D Coe; W Glasson and S Quinlan; T Purtzer and J Inkster; M McCumber and D Massey; R Cochran and M Blackwell. 67: L Mize and M Nause; D Barr and L Young; D Tewell and B King; K Clearwater and C Flerick; A Palmer and T Green. Britain: 69: W Wood (US) and L Davies.

BOWLS

COUNTY MATCHES: [illegible]: Berkshire 122, Sussex 118. Colchester: Essex 122, Suffolk 124. [illegible]: Gloucestershire 97, Somerset 108. [illegible]: Oxfordshire 145, Wiltshire 107.

ICE HOCKEY

NORTH AMERICA: National League (NHL): Philadelphia Flyers 5, Hartford Whalers 2; Boston Bruins 4, New York Rangers 3; Buffalo Sabres 6, Quebec Nordiques 3; New Jersey Devils 4, St Louis Blues 2; Calgary Flames 5, Toronto Maple Leafs 3; Winnipeg Jets 5, Los Angeles Kings 4 (in OT).

TABLE TENNIS

LINKOPING, Swedish Open championships: First round: Men's singles: J-P Gatien (Fr) bt J-O Waldner (Swe), 21-19, 21-23, 21-23, 21-18, 21-13; V Broda (Cz) bt K Iwasaki (Japan), 21-7, 21-16, 21-10; K S Hui (N Korea) bt M Loukov (Bul), 21-19, 21-12, 21-14; L Kucharski (Pol) bt P Haldan (Neth), 21-9, 21-23, 21-15, 23-25, 21-19; E Lindh (Swe) bt M Saino (Fin), 21-14, 21-9, 21-10; A Mazunov (USSR) bt J Rosskopf (WG), 21-23, 21-19, 23-21, 21-10; K Chol Ung (N Korea) bt J Falby (Swe), 23-21, 13-21, 18-21, 21-19, 21-19; W Hao (China) bt D Mommessin (Fr), 21-18, 21-18, 21-9; Wenge (China) bt J Persson (Swe), 21-15, 21-23, 21-18, 21-23, 21-12; B Rozenberg (USSR) bt Z Kalinic (Yug), 21-23, 21-12, 21-12, 21-17; U Carlsson (Swe) bt P Birocheau (Fr), 21-14, 21-19, 21-12; Chu Jong Chol (N Korea) bt A Podpinka (Pol), 21-19, 21-18, 21-9; A Cooke (GB) bt G Bohm (WG), 21-18, 21-23, 21-14, 21-15. Second round (selected results): D Mazunov (USSR) bt A Cooke (GB), 22-24, 21-11, 22-20, 21-17. Women's singles: Chen Jing (China) bt L Wennberg (Nor), 21-8, 21-8, 21-12; C Batorfi (Hun) bt G Jun (China), 21-14, 22-20, 21-23, 21-23, 21-16; F Bulatova (USSR) bt K Hagen (Nor), 21-8, 21-11, 21-7; M Hrachova (Cz) bt M Svensson (Swe), 21-23, 21-17, 18-21, 21-8, 21-18; L Lomas (GB) bt E Coubat (Fr), 21-9, 18-21, 21-15, 21-16; V Popova (USSR) bt N Struse (WG), 21-16, 24-22, 21-11. Second round (Selected results): An Hui Suk (N Korea) bt L Lomas (GB), 21-18, 21-15, 21-18; O Nemes (WG) bt F Elliot (GB), 21-16, 21-10, 21-19.

FOOTBALL

CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Bradford 1, Derby County 4.
BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Westgate Cup: Postponed: Tonbridge v Chelmsford.
OLYMPIC QUALIFYING MATCHES: Qatar 0, Kuwait 0; Saudi Arabia 0, Iraq 0.

DIVING

CRYSTAL PALACE: Sun Life Cup: Women: 1, Gao Min (China), 539.11 pts; 2, H Grecka (Cz), 475.38; 3, W Williams (US), 458.54. British: 8, A Childs, 403.98; 10, C Roscoe, 395.80.

TENNIS

BUENOS AIRES: Argentine women's open championship: Singles, third round: Isabel Cueto (WG) bt Y Derkinderen (Neth), 7-6, 2-6, 6-1; B Fulco (Arg) bt V Nelson-Dunbar (US), 6-0, 6-4; P Tarabini (Arg) bt O Tsarbopoulou (Gr), 7-5, 6-7, 6-0; L Garrone (It) bt L Lapi (It), 6-1, 6-2; M Paz (Arg) bt L A Spadea (US), 6-2, 6-2; B Paulus (Austria) bt C Christian (US), 6-1, 6-2; G Miro (Br) bt E Gaiphin (US), 6-1, 6-0; G Sabatini (Arg) leads A Bretzner (WG), 6-1, 4-1 (suspended — rain).
TELFORD: Home countries tournament: Men: England 6, Ireland 0. (English names first). Singles: M Guntrip bt M Nugent, 6-3, 6-4; H McGuiness bt R Dolan, 6-3, 6-0; P Hughesman bt S Molloy, 6-1, 6-3; L Davies bt K Rowe, 7-6, 7-5. Doubles: McGuiness and Hughesman bt Nugent and Dolan, 6-3, 6-2; Guntrip and Davies bt Molloy and Rowe, 6-3, 6-2. Women: Ireland 4, England 2. (Irish names first); Singles: J Thornton bt J Louis, 6-4, 6-2; L O'Halloran bt J Reeves, 7-6, 6-3; S Fearon lost to C Berry, 0-6, 1-6; R Langford bt F Couldridge, 6-4, 6-4. Doubles: Thornton and O'Halloran bt Louis and Reeves, 6-2, 6-4; Langford and Fearon lost to Berry and Couldridge, 2-6, 3-6.

SQUASH RACKETS

MUSCAT: Al Falaj grand prix tournament: Final: Jansher Khan (Pak) bt C Dittmar (Aus), 3-9, 9-3, 9-5, 10-8. Third place play-off: Jahangir Khan (Pak) bt R Norman (NZ), 9-3, 6-9, 9-7, 9-1.
AMERICAN EXPRESS PREMIER LEAGUE: Second division, south: Exeter GCC 4, Meridian Stripes 1; Mayflower Lambs 4, Tennents Riverside 1; Sun Alliance Life Bromley 1, Portsmouth 4.

Lopes's aim

Carlos Lopes, aged 41, of Portugal, intends to defend his Olympic marathon title in Seoul next year, despite being overweight and wrestling with injuries to his left knee and Achilles tendon which have kept him out of competition since January.

SNOOKER

Knowles finds a merciless scoring vein

Murdo Macleod, of Scotland, and his partner, John Campbell, were forced to concede a frame in their nine-frame, fourth-round match against Tony Knowles and Joe Johnson in the Fosters world doubles tournament at Northampton yesterday (a Special Correspondent writes). Campbell, the Australian, arrived eight minutes late because of car problems.

Before that penalty could be erased from their minds, Knowles made another indelible mark that sent the Englishmen on the way to a 5-1 win.

The world No. 7 achieved his second break over a hundred in the tournament during the first competitive frame.

Johnson cleared the colours to give them a 131-1 frame win on the way to the quarter-finals, but had little else to do: Knowles scored 285 points, against Johnson's 60, in the match.

RESULTS: Third round (GB unless stated): A Higgins and E Hughes (N Ire) bt T Murphy and T Chappel, 5-2; D Mountjoy and T Jones bt S Longworth and G Cripsey, 5-3. Fourth round: J Johnson and A Knowles bt M Macleod and J Campbell (Aus), 5-1.

High Court stalls Maxwell's bid to buy Watford

By a Special Correspondent

A High Court judge last night banned the planned takeover of Watford Football Club by Robert Maxwell, the publishing millionaire. Mr Justice Vinelott granted the Football League an injunction at an emergency hearing, restraining Maxwell from going ahead with the transfer of 92 per cent of the shares from Elton John, the present Watford chairman.

At a 40-minute hearing at which Maxwell was not present or represented, Mr David Oliver, QC for the Football League, said they had not informed the defendants because they were "very concerned" that if they had, the share deal might have been brought forward from its proposed completion on December 8.

Mr Oliver told the judge: "The Football League has been very concerned about Mr Maxwell's spreading ownership over various clubs in the League over the past few years."

In a statement read to the court, Graham Kelly, the secretary of the League, said Maxwell was undoubtedly in an official position at Derby County, where he was chairman. His son, Kevin, was the chairman of Oxford United and Maxwell held almost 30 per cent of shares in Reading through various nominees.

Although the proposed deal for Watford would install the BPCC chairman, John Holloran, as chairman, Maxwell would no doubt be involved in the administration.

Mr Oliver said the League wanted an injunction because it believed the proposed takeover was in breach of Regulation 80 of its rules. He said Watford was a member of the League and agreed to be bound by the rules, including Regulation 80, which prevented one individual being involved in the management or administration of more than one club.

The order granted by the judge was against Ian Robert Maxwell, Maxwell Communication Corporation, formerly the British Printing and Communication Corporation, John Holloran, and Watford Football Club.

Mr Oliver said more than 50 per cent of MCC shares were owned by a Liechtenstein company, Pergamon Foundation, but that there was evidence for the League to presume MCC would do Maxwell's bidding. He said: "The object of the writ is to prevent this sale being completed."

The injunction was to restrain the first three defendants from procuring or causing the fourth defendant, Watford, from breaking its contract with the League.

Mr Oliver said the League's management committee held a meeting after the proposed transfer of shares was announced on November 20, at which it decided it was not prepared to sanction the proposed takeover. But it added afterwards that it felt nonetheless there was nothing the League could do about it — its hands were tied. However, the League had now taken advice, and found this was not the case.

Mr Oliver said Maxwell had tried to distance himself from the BPCC acquisition and, in a statement to the Press and in letters to the management committee and to all the 92 League clubs, had said he would be taking no managerial or administrative role.

He claimed his loyalty in football was with Derby, his son Kevin's was with Oxford and he expressed a willingness to dispose of his Reading shares at a reasonable price.

He claimed he was not in breach of Regulation 80. But, Mr Oliver said, the League's view was that the inference to be drawn from the evidence is that he is in breach of it.

The judge granted an injunction until December 8, restraining the purchase of the shares from Elton John, and restraining Watford from causing or permitting the transfer of the shares to be registered to MCC or any of its subsidiaries.

COUNTDOWN TO THE HIGH COURT

November 20: Elton John announces his decision to sell Watford to Robert Maxwell's British Printing and Communication Corporation for £2 million. John Holloran, BPCC's Chief Executive, is to become chairman. The deal is to be completed on December 8. Maxwell now has an interest in four clubs — Watford; Derby County, where he is chairman; Oxford United, where his son is chairman; and Reading, where he is the major shareholder.

November 22: Maxwell says he will withdraw from the deal if the Football League Management Committee disapprove. The League is concerned that Maxwell has breached regulation 80 which states: "No official may, at any one time, be involved in any capacity whatsoever in the management or administration of more than one club."

November 26: Maxwell insists he will go ahead with takeover, after the League decides to call an extraordinary general meeting if he did not withdraw. Maxwell launches a ferocious attack on the "mismanagement committee", as he calls it. He refers to the intervention of Philip Carter, the League president, as "childish, scandalous and slanderous."

November 27: BPCC confirms Maxwell's decision to buy Watford. Carter retailiates to earlier accusations, likening Maxwell to a "bare-knuckled fighter, lashing out in all directions because he cannot get his own way."

November 28: Carter considers taking legal action for libel against Maxwell. Maxwell's *Daily Mirror* attacks the League management committee in an article.

FA blamed in "grass roots" row

The Sports Council has accused the Football Association of an uncaring attitude towards football's grass roots after a row that has raged for months in High Wycombe.

Officials of the Bucks and Berks FA were blamed for the late cancellation of a six-a-side tournament in August. Sixty teams and 500 young footballers had entered the competition and £2,000 in sponsorship had been raised, when the local FA insisted all teams pay full affiliation fees.

The organizers called off the tournament and may not resurrect it next summer. The local sports development officer, Kevin Day, is still trying to meet a representative from the FA. An arranged meeting this week was cancelled by the FA with no reason given.

"We wrote to Ted Croker, the FA's secretary," Lawrie Bridgeman, the Sports Council's Southern Region Director, explained. "He replied, virtually saying that the local associations were autonomous." "One doubts if the FA's heart is really in the game. The grass roots are not being looked after and the kids are not being provided for."

Gould promises to control his men

By Clive White

Bobby Gould, the Wimbledon manager, vowed yesterday to control the worst disciplinary record in the first division, but said that he would do nothing to halt his team's power game.

Gould was compelled to take action after two Wimbledon players were sent off against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge last week. The club had been without a code of conduct since Dave Bassett left during summer, and Gould explained that he thought it unfair to introduce a code until he had got to know the players.

Gould has now chosen to introduce a strict code, as recommended by the Professional Footballers' Association. "I've come in with an open mind to a club unique in many facets," he said. "I've now decided the time has come to stop the dissent. Foul and abusive language is bad for society, not just football. But I must emphasize that I will do nothing to stop the power football on which Wimbledon's game is based."

Prior to last Saturday's sendings-off Wimbledon players had totalled 31 bookings, 17 of which were for tackles and eight for dissent. Gould said: "It's not a record I'm proud of. But I will control it. If they get into trouble now they will lose money. I might even decide to take further action against offenders if necessary. They won't have a leg to stand on. I have an ally in Don Howe, my coach, and we will enforce law and order. Tomorrow we play a team which has one of the best disciplinary records, and it's all down to one man, Brian Clough."

Alan Ball's assertion that "you have to commit murder to get sent off at home" has been given involuntary support by the Football Association. Figures released yesterday showed that of the 111 players dismissed up to the end of November, 75 were visiting players. The first division, with 19 dismissals, is the least troublesome of the four divisions.

- The Manchester City manager, Mel Machin, was fined £250 yesterday by the Football Association for making comments to the referee during City's game against Middlesbrough on November 4.

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Ferrasse fears an invasion

Albert Ferrasse, the president of the French Rugby Union Federation, says it is preparing a set of sweeping regulations to bring the invasion of the "foreign legion" — as overseas players are known — to a halt (Chris Thau writes).

The arrival last week at Toulouse of Wayne Shelford, the All Blacks captain, and his fellow New Zealand international, Steve McDowell, has highlighted what the French see as a growing threat to the chances of native Frenchmen making the grade. Indeed, Shelford was forced by the federation to play for the reserves at the weekend.

"Unless we take some action, clubs will tend to recruit players rather than develop their own talent," Ferrasse said. "That must be stopped."

Few of the top clubs are without foreign players; there are two South Africans at Toulon, an Australian at Brive, a New Zealander and very soon a Romanian at Biarritz, an American at Perpignan, a South African, an Australian and a Romanian at Racing Club de France, to mention a few.

Descent of an ascendant star

Suspended splashdown: Bobby Morgan, the Welsh diver who narrowly missed a bronze medal at the European Championships last summer, giving Britain a flying start in the Sun Life Cup highboard competition at Crystal Palace yesterday.

At the end of the preliminaries (Roy Moor writes) he topped the scoring, 40 points ahead of Ronnie Myer, of the United States, and 80 in front of Sergei Efremov, the Soviet Union's 1986 national champion, in third place. The points scoring starts all over again for tonight's final, for which a local lad, Tony Ali, aged 14, has also qualified.

Chris Snode, twice a diving double gold medal winner for England at the Commonwealth Games, has for long been convinced that Morgan has a potential to match the world's best. "Anyone with doubts must have been convinced of his outstanding ability in these preliminaries," Snode said. "I consider he is capable of winning a medal at next year's Olympics in Seoul and I am hoping he will give proof of this again in the final here at the Palace."

Ali, competing in his first international for Britain, also impressed for one so young and will be one to keep an eye on for the Barcelona Olympics in five years.

Photograph: Hugh Routledge

CCPR rebel against Moynihan

By John Goodbody

The Central Council of Physical Recreation yesterday escalated the campaign against Government plans for privatizing municipal sports facilities.

Its executive committee is sending a note of protest to Colin Moynihan, the Minister for Sport, against proposals which could affect thousands of clubs and millions of people using publicly-owned centres.

A five-point plan of action was drawn up by the CCPR conference in Birmingham which was attended by representatives of 75 governing bodies of sport. Its recommendations were:

1: Government privatization proposals: While accepting the importance of improved management, wherever possible mandatory safeguards should be sought to ensure that charging policies do not deter or discourage the young and disadvantaged from sports participation. Britain's leading role in town hall-funded provision for sports facilities should not be maintained for a short-term profit motive. Town halls must be free to decide accesss arrangements to sports centres for the benefit of their communities.

2: Education Bill. The CCPR should press Parliament to accept the need for and value of a comprehensive "in-school" programme of sport and physical education. The CCPR should seek yet again to halt the sale of "surplus" school playing fields.

3: Minister for Sport's open consultation letter. The CCPR should seek an immediate increase in the present £8 million governing body grant budget out of a total allocation of £38 million to the Sports Council from the Department of the Environment. The CCPR should underline the outstanding value for money of governing bodies whose role and responsibilities are irreplaceable and essential to British sports development.

4: National sports centres. The CCPR should maintain its vigilance and support vigorously the partnership for guarding the future of the centres and should take all appropriate action to ensure that these vital national facilities are available and developed for the full use of the governing bodies of sport.

5: Sport and Parliament. The CCPR should take immediate steps to convene national sports seminars to review continuously the place of sport in Britain and agree, where possible, at national and local levels joint action and arrangement to preserve and protect British sporting heritage and philosophy.

The conference discussed the document but was not asked to vote because delegates had not been mandated by their individual organizations. However, the Amateur Athletic Association has already written, unilaterally, to the Minister saying that the proposals would "price out young people and have a catastrophic effect on sport".

The Government, which will consider the consultation paper next week, has always stressed that it is not proposing the privatization of facilities. Instead, it is suggesting competition in the management of local authorities' sports facilities.

Plans for the six national sports centres were unveiled yesterday by David Teasdale, of the Sports Council. A £2 million proposal is being discussed with the Lawn Tennis Association to release the indoor hall at Bisham Abbey and instead erect a bubble for three indoor courts with an outdoor complex of 12 courts including four of clay and four of a surface similar to that at Flushing Meadow, New York, neither of which exists elsewhere in the United Kingdom.

A £1.5 million hall of residence is also being considered for Lilleshall and this may be used by the Home Office for the training of prison officers during the week and then freed for the sports bodies at the weekend.

There is a £250,000 rebuilding programme at Plas-y-Brenin, in Wales, and there is a road planned as a new entrance to Crystal Palace which will cost £600,000. A hotel complex is also being considered by Bromley Council at the sports centre.

Virgo has challenge in top job

John Virgo was yesterday unanimously approved by the board of directors as chairman of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association in succession to Rex Williams. Gordon Ingham, the Halifax businessman, replaces Virgo as vice-chairman (Steve Acteson writes).

Virgois ranked nineteenth in the world, and at yesterday's meeting in Northampton, he took the reins of the sport's most important political office, to end Williams's 13-year reign.

Virgo now needs to develop a more serious vein than his television image for mimicking his fellow professionals. The game has saturated British television while the rest of the world clamours for a properly marketed share (apart from Barry Hearn's Matchroom players). So can Virgo, with his limited business experience, control the move into a wider field?

He was delighted yesterday to announce ranking tournaments in November, in Toronto and Belgium in February, 1989. The board also recommended tournaments in the Pacific basin, in July and August, 1989 to take the ranking tournaments to 10, if the proposal meets approval from the Association.

But only time will tell whether Virgo can end constant allegations of low-brow management. It may be high time that the game adopted a professional chief executive, or professional board, as Steve Davis, suggested last week.

Langer finds perfect tonic

Sun City, South Africa (AFP) — Bernhard Langer, of West Germany, using a borrowed putter, sank six birdies on his way to a 68, the best round on the second day in the Million Dollar Challenge golf tournament here yesterday.

Langer took a fancy to the putter of the South African professional, Jeff Hawkes, and borrowed it in an attempt to make up for his disappointing display on the opening day when he shot 70.

The new putter paid off on the second nine holes, with birdies at the 11th, 12th, and 13th. Two more birdies on the last two holes completed the day for the world No. 3 who collected $50,000(£30,000) for the best round of the day.

But Langer, who had suffered from a stomach complaint on the first day, was unable to overtake the South African, Fulton Allem, who retained his lead in the winner-take-all tournament with a 69 to follow his six under 66. Allem only got into the tournament as a last minute replacement for his compatriot, Mark McNulty, who was struck down with pneumonia.

Europe's leading money winner, Ian Woosnam, remained in the hunt, sharing second overall place with Langer, after a disappointing one-under 71 yesterday.

Nick Faldo, the Open champion, lies in fourth place after his second day 71 gave him a total of 139.

David Frost, from South Africa, lies five strokes off the leader, while Curtis Strange, from the United States, and Jose-Maria Olazabal, from Spain, are six shots behind.

SECOND ROUND SCORES: 135: F Allem (SA), 66, 69. 138: I Woosnam (GB), 67, 71; B Langer (WG), 70, 68. 139: N Faldo (GB), 68, 71. 140: D Frost (SA), 70, 70. 141: J-M Olazabal (Sp), 68, 73; C Strange (US), 72, 69. 143: L Wadkins (US), 71, 72.

SPORT IN BRIEF

Bolton's dilemma

A financial crisis has left Bolton and Bury Giants basketball club in a predicament on the eve of tonight's match against Portsmouth (Julian Desborough writes). Unless the Lancashire club raise £15,000 by Monday to last them until the end of the season, they will have to part with Terry Crosby, their dual national.

Bolton are loath to sell Crosby whose high tallies have not only put them within reach of the national championship play-offs for the first time but have also attracted the interest of Manchester United.

Prize signing

Curtley Ambrose, aged 23, the West Indian fast bowler, has signed for Northamptonshire.

Carrick: re-appointed

Following on

Yorkshire Cricket Club have confirmed that Phil Carrick will captain the side again next season, while Neil Hartley takes over from Steve Oldham as second XI captain.

Perryman in

Steve Perryman, the Brentford player-manager, makes his first appearance against Tottenhma Hotspur in today's friendly at Griffin Park.

Piquet aim

Milan, (AP) — Nelson Piquet, of Brazil, the Formula One driver, said yesterday that he will chase his fourth world title next season "because I don't feel satisfied yet and I like to be No. 1."

Sad ending

A bankruptcy order has been issued in the High Court against Michael Lee, whose speedway career ended with suspension by King's Lynn last year.

Breaking ice

New York, (Reuter) — John Ziegler, the National Hockey League president, said talks with officials in Moscow could lead to Soviet players joining the league.

END COLUMN

A haven for the legion of the lost

By Peter McEvoy

(Four times a Walker Cup amateur international golfer and a director of a sports promotions company).

This weekend 240 young men, half of them British, the rest from 22 other nations, meet at La Manga, Spain, to try for a card which will entitle them to play the £10m Volvo golf tour in Europe next year.

All but 50 of the 240 will fail to win a card. Even those who are successful will not be guaranteed sufficient appearances on the 1988 tour to give much opportunity for financial success and avoid having to join the queue at La Manga next year. Many will spend the summer waiting on reserve lists to play in events. The rest will be resigned to a year in no-man's land.

My belief is that the root of the problem is in the professional/amateur division — one of the very few left in sport.

I do not disapprove of the distinction between amateur and professional golf. Indeed, the structure of club golf, enhanced by the only genuine handicapping system in sport, demands that such a distinction remains. My concern is for the "lost golfers", the ones who fall between amateurism and professionalism.

Here's a typical embryo professional golfer . . . a young man shows a talent for the game and gets down to a handicap of two by the age of 17. He has been encouraged by his parents or club members or benefactors with the best of intentions. Rightly or wrongly, he leaves school with an assurance from his backers that he can play golf full-time on the amateur circuit for so many years.

Three years later, almost irrespective of success, he has to turn pro. What else does he know? He has given his educational life to golf. Even if he knows in his heart he cannot succeed, he becomes a professional on a faint hope.

Four years later, aged 24, going on 40, he fails at La Manga or, worse still, at the pre-qualifying at Foxhills. He gives up and gets a job outside the sport. The job does not reflect his talent for golf or his capacity for endeavour. He is lost. Professional golf has lost a possible Ian Woosnam (he failed three times to get his card). And amateur golf suffers the greatest loss of all.

One of the great sports adages "They never come back" is truest of all with regard to amateurs who fail having turned professional.

In the United States there is a category which allows young golfers to establish their worth as players. They continue in education while learning to maximize their golfing talents. It is the college system. It is impossible to think we could ever afford one in Britain. But let us consider a freedom-of-amateur status or a creation of a category of golfer equivalent to the American college golfer.

Fortunately, the governing body, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, is forward-looking. Steps have been taken already to give youngsters more time to decide their future by allowing limited expenses to be paid.

Now how do we encourage young players to maintain their interest and keep an academic string to their bows? I have a possible solution — the Open University of Golf.

A commercially-funded pool of money could be arranged from sponsors, and grants could be awarded in return for the applicant's successful completion of a correspondence course, connected not only with golf but with the sponsors' industry.

Amateur status would have to allow it and commerce would have to see benefit in exposure and access to talented young men: they would have more time to develop technically and temperamentally before deciding if they wanted to risk La Manga.

That may not be the perfect answer; the R and A may well have better ideas. But the sport must act urgently before too many more young men join the "lost golfers."